



September 3, 2023

## "The Samaritan Shocker"

Luke 10:25-37

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### **The Common Lessons**

My neighbor is one who is near me, who has a need that I can meet

Even (especially) my enemy is my neighbor

To be a neighbor means to show compassion, mercy, generosity, get involved

### **The Shocker of THIS Story**

The punch of the parable lies in the Samaritan being the hero of the story: v.33

More than defining neighborliness: Jesus speaks to the man's self-justification: v. 29

The story of Samaritan/Jewish enmity

Every POV traps the self-righteous questioner and catches us likewise today

### **POV 1: I am the Victim**

I am in need of help; I cannot help myself; my own tribe cannot be trusted

Kingdom neighborliness includes receiving help from the despised other

Which elevates, dignifies, validates, includes, honors those typically devalued

This also erases the proud "nobility" of toxic charity

PUNCHLINE: Gladly and gratefully receive help from those on the margins

### **POV 2: I am the Villain**

The priest and the Levite fail to pass the neighbor threshold: v.31-32

My religious system is inadequate to fulfill the Law

My despised Samaritan enemy is more noble than me and my tribe

Of what must I repent? Where is my theology deficient? Who is in and who is out?

PUNCHLINE: Learn from those who practice the Law without having the Law (Rom 2:14)

### **POV 3: I am the Hero**

I would go the extra mile; I am the Samaritan and he is me

God can raise up children of Abraham from stones (Matthew 3:9)

You and your enemy have much more in common than what divides you

PUNCHLINE: Consider no one unclean (Acts 10:33-35)

With this changed perspective, "Go and Do Likewise": v.37