

Lessons From the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

8/6/00

Intro

In this section of scripture Jesus is answering a test from a certain lawyer.

Through this conversation we learn important lessons for ourselves about what is really most important to God.

This section is about lessons from the Good Samaritan.

I. Let God Test You

**Malachi 3:7 ff** --- There is only one place in scripture where we are invited to test God.

Vs 25

A. Some people insist on testing God.

- This is a way of justifying ourselves (Vs 29), or making ourselves look righteous.
- This is one of the greatest barriers to growing in Christ – lack of a teachable spirit.

Illus-

Why do people test Christians?

What would you do if you had a chance to drive a hotrod?

People do the same with Christians. “These Christians are supposed to be souped up. Let’s see if they really are.”

Then when you fail, they are justified in not being a Christian.

Vs 26, 28

B. Jesus turns the test around.

- “How do you read it?”
- “You have answered correctly. Now do this and live.”

C. Come to God on His terms.

Illus-

An agnostic decided she would see if there was a God out there. She decided to pray. So she set up her candles, dimmed the lights,...

II. The Most Important Thing to Do is in the Heart

Vs 27

A. Most people think in terms of Psalm 34: 12-14

- They are looking for life in doing good.

Vs 28

B. The only doing is found in loving God and your neighbor.

- “Do this and you will live.”

III. Loving Goes Beyond Convenience – The Case of the Good Samaritan.

Vs 9

A. “Who is My Neighbor?”

- Even people you don't like and who don't like you.

B. If you love, it will be seen in your deeds.

- Religion is not enough to get us to love.
- The first two were great religious men.

C. Key words, “As you would love yourself.”

- We take very good care of ourselves.

Conclusion

They thought that being justified before God was defined by what you do.

Instead Jesus showed them that the most important thing to God is having a right heart.

But those with right hearts live out the character of God in their everyday lives!!