

- A. It is the nature of sinful man to twist or manipulate the law of God. Today’s text is an example.
- B. Later in Luke 12, Jesus warned His disciples: **“Beware of the leaven (doctrine and life) of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”**

Jesus taught us what the law requires.	I. <u>THE LAWYER TESTED JESUS</u> II. <u>CHRIST’S ANSWER IN PARABLE</u>
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I. THE LAWYER TESTED JESUS

- A. The lawyer’s first question proves that this expert in the Pentateuch didn’t have good intentions. He sought to put Jesus **“to the test” (v25)** rather than sitting at His feet to learn from Him. → v25
 - 1. Earlier in Lu 5:17, the **“Pharisees and teachers of the law”** are paired together. Multiple scholars make a case that scribes, teachers of the law, and lawyers are all one and the same.
 - 2. According to Mark 15:31, the chief priests also hired scribes (lawyers).
 - It is likely that this lawyer was conspiring with either Pharisees, the chief priests, or both before he went to Jesus to test our Lord.
- B. Jesus gave this lawyer a question in return. In v26, He asked the lawyer, **“What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”**
 - 1. The law expert answered by quoting Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18 in v27. → look at v27.
 - a. Jesus in multiple cases in the NT knew the thoughts of men. He knew thoughts and motives of this man. He knew this lawyer had a false religion of self-righteousness.
 - b. Instead of answering him with the gospel concerning His coming sacrifice for sinners, Jesus answered him with a true statement which was in accordance with Isa 6:9 as He quoted earlier in Lu 8:9-10. → Turn back there.
 - 1) That is why Jesus told the man he answered correctly and then replied to him with Scripture saying, **“Do this and you will live.”**¹
 - a. That requires perfect, personal, and perpetual obedience.
 - b. Before His fall, only Adam was able to do that, yet he failed.
 - c. Only Jesus as our second Adam was able to obey the law perfectly.
 - 2) Jesus knew this was impossible for him. If this lawyer truly sought after holiness, he would have admitted like the tax collector in temple, **“God, be merciful to me, the sinner!”**²

- C. This lawyer had some sinful ways that he sought to cover up. This is evident when Luke told us that he was **“wishing to justify himself”** by asking Jesus, **“Who is my neighbor?”(v29)**.
 - 1. According to Dr. William Hendrickson, “There were those who perverted the command of Lev 19:18 into meaning: ‘You shall love your neighbor *and hate your enemy.*’”³
 - 2. The lawyer and Pharisees would have thought it lawful to hate all Romans because they were gentile oppressors of their people.
 - 3. It becomes easier to love your neighbor when you narrowly restrict who that is.

¹ See Lev 18:5 and Ezek 20:11.

² This is from a parable of Jesus in Lu 18:9-14.

³ Wm. Hendrickson, NT Commentary: Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1978). p.593

II. CHRIST'S ANSWER IN PARABLE → **vv30-35**

- A. Those who passed by the half dead man were a priest and a Levite. Because of their titles, we can assume both men were Jewish.
1. We are not given an explanation why both men passed him by.
 3. In 1964, while in a very crowded neighborhood in Queens, NY, a 28 year old named Kitty Genovese was abused and murdered while crying out for help. No one came outside.
- B. In Christ's parable, the only man who stopped to help the half dead man was a Samaritan.
1. Because of their mixing pagan and Jewish practices in worship and practice, Samaritans were considered to be pagan. They were worthy of being hated as an enemy.
 2. The Samaritan helped because his heart was moved with compassion for the injured man.
- C. Jesus asked the lawyer one last question. → **v36**
1. Logically, this question could have only one valid answer.
 2. The lawyer answered correctly when he said the neighbor was **"The one who showed mercy toward him" (v37a).**
- D. Jesus taught that a neighbor is not defined by one's ethnic or religious background.
1. The Greek word for "neighbor" could be translated as "someone nearby;" however, it has come to be understood as meaning "fellow mankind."
 3. Dr. Hendrickson pointed out, "The question is not, 'Who is my neighbor?' but 'Am I being a neighbor to those needy ones whom the Lord places in my path?'"⁴
- E. In **v37**, when **"Jesus said to him, 'Go & do the same,'"** he wasn't saying that the lawyer should add this to the rest of the law to try to keep to have eternal life.
1. **Gal 2:16** teaches that **"man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus... so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified."**
 2. What Jesus told this man was absolute truth, yet the gospel was not revealed to him because Jesus was fulfilling **Isa 6:9** so that this law expert would **"Keep on listening, but do not understand; and keep on looking, but do not gain knowledge."**

Review, further application, and conclusion:

⁴ Wm. Hendrickson, NT Commentary: Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1978). p.595