

# Love in Action

Luke 10:25-37

*A passion for God in Christ demonstrated  
in our worship,  
our love for one another  
and our compassion for His world...*

It is in *seeing* and *savoring* all that Christ is and has done for us that can (and should) motivate our **compassion for His World...**

*If you embrace all creation with goodwill, but do not embrace Christ, you are infinitely narrow. ~ Jonathan Edwards, The Nature of Virtue*

Risky endeavor – a familiar parable, many ‘takes’ on meaning

**Allegorical** – Christ = Samaritan [John 8:48]; robbers = Satan/the Fall; us = traveler; Levite & priest = law’s inability to save; the Inn = the church; oil & wine = healing mercies; etc. - There is no doubt that the gospel underlies everything taught through the parable, but the best way to understand it is to see it through the eyes of the 1<sup>st</sup> century listener.

**I. The Question:** most basic of all human inquiries...

~Lawyer asks in the aorist tense (what one completed action can I do?)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind...and your neighbor as yourself”  
(see also Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34)

~Jesus answers in the present imperative (“whenever it is now”)  
(**orthos** (orthodox) – right answer!)

Q: How are you doing on that? See our need of Christ

Desiring to **justify himself...**

“Who is my neighbor?” *Interpretation* – “**how do I love?**”

## II. The Parable:

Geography 201 – the road from Jerusalem to Jericho 17 descending miles of twisting, turning, rocky terrain. Great place for bandits.

Levite and the Priest without excuse (*going down the road*) -

“Samaritan” (*the one who showed mercy*) qualities:

- ☺ *Saw him* – regarded his condition
- ☺ *Had compassion* – from the *heart* ~~expl agcnisqh~~
- ☺ *Went to him* – got involved
- ☺ *Bound up his wounds* – got messy (guy was ‘half-dead’)
- ☺ *Gave of himself* – own oil, own wine, own animal
- ☺ *Submitted to a ‘Sovereign Schedule’* – left a margin? (*next day*)
- ☺ *Costly* – two denarii (two days wages) *plus whatever was necessary!*

## III. The Application:

Jesus reverses the question:

“Which one proved to be the neighbor?”

“The **one** (*Samaritan – remember?*) who showed him mercy”

*Love is not limited by its object, rather, the intensity and intimacy of love are in the control of the one doing the loving.*

Jesus speaks straight to the heart → “You go, and do likewise.”

See our need of Christ

Matthew 25:31-46 ; Galatians 5:6

*How long beneath the Law I lay, in bondage and distress,  
I toiled the precepts to obey, but toiled without success. -  
But to see the law of Christ fulfilled, to hear His pardoning voice  
Changes a slave, into a child, and duty into choice. ~ William Cowper*