

# The Good Samaritan

A transfiguration. Demon-exorcism. Self-centeredness followed by self-sacrifice. We covered a lot last week! We continue in the life of Christ, that forever changed our world.

*Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.*

*No events occurred between last week's lesson and today.*

## The Seventy-Two (Luke 10:1-23)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- Jesus gains steam while in Jerusalem and is looking to work in Judea.
- This group resembles the Apostles, who had almost identical instructions a year earlier.
- There's good evidence for 70 and 72. Side note: we're unsure whether the Sanhedrin consisted of 70 or 72. Moore believes the community would have associated this group/number with authority. Perhaps it's a coincidence, but God had Moses chose 70 elders to approach Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:1,9) and assist in judging the people (Numbers 11:16).
- Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum represent where Jesus spent most of his time. Tyre and Sidon represent Gentile territory. It is an odd reference since He's in Judea, but perhaps Luke uses it because of the Sodom reference. Matthew's account puts Jesus saying this in Galilee (which makes sense).

- *What we can take home:*

- There are consequences for ignoring evidence. The more evidence, the more is required.
- We see how reasonable God is when dealing with mankind.

## The Good Samaritan (25-37)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- Notice he's seeking to test Jesus.
- Many Jews considered Deuteronomy 6:5, the Shema, the heart and soul of the Law. It was their John 3:16. They even kept the written passage in little boxes with their phylacteries. They would repeat it 2-3 times a day.
- The man is trying to save face in front of everyone. If you already know, why are you asking? Perhaps an implication that the man didn't do what he knew to be true when Jesus said, "Do this, and you will live."
- Samaritans were a "mixed breed." Jews marrying Gentiles after the Assyrians took out the northern tribes.

- *What we can take home:*

- What's your starting place? What's your mindset? Your attitude? What are you seeking to find? Don't be a wise guy!

- Yes, we can have an interpretation. It's simply asking what we understand the text to say. Your interpretation can be right or wrong. You may find yourself unsure of what it means as well. That happens to the best of 'em.
- Seems like this guy already knew the answer. What does he need Jesus for?
- Here, we have an intellectual believer. Yet, many times, the greatest minds miss the obvious. Does Jesus' answer shock you? What must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus answers by painting a simple picture of life. Yet, what's behind the example? It's loving your neighbor. How do we love God? By pleasing Him when we care for His other children. God doesn't like to see His children bickering. He's offended when we don't care for one another.
- Who's your neighbor? Who's your Samaritan? We share the same challenge: doing what we know to be right.

### Jesus, Mary & Martha (38-42)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
  - Perhaps Jesus wasn't alone and had His apostles with Him?
  - Jesus is about 5 months from His crucifixion.
- *What we can take home:*
  - Our goal is not to bash Martha, but we need to take note. We have a tendency to miss the obvious. Some can't stay still. Seems honorable, but quality time with those you love is most important. Of course, we're especially considering the opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet. Mary got it, but Martha didn't. Do you know what's most important in life? What takes up most of your time? Do you know how to prioritize? The "bread of life" was before them and too much attention was paid to bread that would perish.
  - Interesting - you'll see Martha serving and Mary worshipping Jesus in their home again in John 12.