

A LESSON IN HONESTY

Text: Luke 10:25-37

INTRO: Almost everyone is familiar with Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, though many miss its main point.

- I. THE LAWYER ASKED JESUS A CRUCIAL QUESTION, vs. 25
 - A. There is no question more vital.
 - B. A lawyer in the N.T. was one who was skilled in & taught the Law of Moses, thus in reality, he knew the answer to his own question, vs. 26-27.

- II. JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LAWYER'S ANSWER WAS CORRECT, vs. 28.

- III. BUT THEN, THE LAWYER SOUGHT TO DODGE THE OBVIOUS APPLICATION OF THE LAW, vs. 29.
 - A. The word neighbor literally means "the one who is near." By proper definition a "neighbor" could even be your enemy.

 - B. It was at this point that Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan. Was Jesus teaching compassion? Yes—but that's not the main point of the story. Jesus' main point is HONESTY in application, vs. 36.

- IV. ONCE AGAIN, THE LAWYER ANSWERED CORRECTLY, ALBEIT WITH A DEGREE OF PREJUDICE, vs. 37.
- A. Obviously, the lawyer knew the law all along.
 - B. Jesus challenged him to be HONEST in his application of the law.
 - C. The lawyer's 2nd question had been NOT a matter of intellect, but one of integrity.
- V. WE ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM SUCH PROBLEMS TODAY. NEITHER ARE THOSE WITH WHOM WE STUDY.
- A. J.W. Posey.
 - B. Marilyn Hayden.

CONCLUSION: Often, questions arise, not because God's word lacks clarity, but because men's hearts like the will to submit to His will. Let us seek to grasp an accurate understanding of God's will – and then go and do likewise.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 5, 2006