

WHERE DO I FIT IN? (Luke 10:25-37)

1. Am I a looter?

- a. As mentioned, robbers were common on this road.
- b. In fact, this road was known as the way of blood.
 - i. This was partly for the red rocks that shone in the sunlight.
 - ii. Also, because of the dangerous bandits that were not afraid to kill who made travel on this road so dangerous.
 - iii. Even as late as the 1800's, travelers would pay safety money to local sheiks in order to be kept safe from the attack of bedouins.
- c. These men found a lone traveler and beat him and stripped him of his clothing, probably his outer garment.
 - i. They left him with nothing.
 - ii. And, they left him for dead.
- d. We know our society is filled with people like this today.
 - i. Not long ago, Ferguson, MO, was filled with people such as these.
 - ii. Since beginning to coach little league, I've noticed more and more grandparents who have custody of their children.
 - (1) Why is this?
 - (2) It is because so many parents abuse and neglect their children.
 - (3) Over 2,000 children die each year from abuse or neglect.
 - iii. Abortionists are in this category.
- e. Right about now, you are sitting there thinking, well Ben, I am none of those things so I know I'm not a looter.
- f. Well hold on a moment.
 - i. Do you gossip any?
 - (1) When we gossip, what we are saying is, "I want to look better in your eyes at the expense of someone else."
 - (2) We are robbing someone else to make ourselves better.
 - (3) It doesn't matter if what we are saying is true or not.
 - (4) It makes us feel good for someone to lean in close to hear what we are saying doesn't it?
 - ii. Do you engage in criticism of brethren that is unjust?
 - (1) I've heard it said that many children in the church grow up eating roasted elder and baked preacher for Sunday lunch.
 - (2) Sometimes, we don't wait for lunch, we do it in the foyer or standing in the pews after services.
 - (3) I have great respect for those who have a problem with me or my elders who come to me or them.
 - (4) This is the biblical way to do things.
 - (5) Sadly, those type brethren are few and far between.
- g. You and I don't have to beat someone physically to be like these robbers in this parable.
- h. The tongue is a dangerous tool and we need to make sure that we keep it bridled (James 3:3-6).

2. Am I a looker?

- a. The priest and the Levite fall into this category.

- b. The priest was one who was trained in the law of Moses for sure.
 - i. He was supposed to understand who the neighbor of Leviticus 19:18 truly was.
 - ii. The Jews, of course, had limited the neighbor in this verse to only fellow Jews but God never intended for it to be so limited.
 - iii. However, this seems to be a fellow Jew who was injured.
 - iv. He was coming down from Jerusalem as well so he was leaving Jerusalem and any of the duties he may have had at the temple.
 - v. He would not have been hindered from temple service by becoming unclean if the man had been dead.
 - vi. Besides that, the teaching of the Jews was that human life superceded all of the Torah if it meant saving a life.
 - vii. He just couldn't be bothered.
- c. The Levite didn't just see the man laying there, he went over and looked at him.
 - i. This man would have been used in the work of the temple but not the offering of sacrifices.
 - ii. Clean up, moving furniture and things such as this were the duties of the Levites.
 - iii. However, he would have known to help a fellow Jew.
- d. These two men looked at the need of a fellow man, but didn't offer any help.
- e. How many of us fall into this category?
 - i. We see a brother or sister in need but don't do anything about it.
 - (1) James 2:15-16.
 - (2) 1 John 3:17.
 - ii. What if there is a needy person that comes to us?
 - (1) Will we open up our hearts to them and help them?
 - (2) Or, do we think how this is going to put us out or, if I help this person they will probably come back needing more help in the future?
 - iii. What do we do when we see a fellow Christian in sin?
 - (1) The New Testament tells us to go after those in sin.
 - (a) Galatians 6:1-2.
 - (b) James 5:19-20.
 - (2) How about those who have sinned against us?
 - (a) Matthew 18:15-20.
 - (b) We are to go to that brother or sister.
 - (3) Oftentimes, brethren watch as their brother or sister wanders off in sin.
 - iv. What do we do when we know someone is lost?
 - (1) The New Testament tells us to preach the word.
 - (2) We are to take the gospel to every creature.
- f. If you think about it, when we fail to go to a brother in sin or a friend who is lost, we fall into the looter category.
 - i. We are robbing that person of an opportunity to be made right with God.
 - ii. We are not being the neighbor to them we should be.
- g. Sadly, a lot of Christians fall into this category.

3. Am I a lover?

- a. The Samaritan saw this hurt, bleeding man and was moved with compassion to act.
 - i. He went to him, he didn't go to the other side of the road.
 - ii. He cleaned his wounds and dressed them.
 - iii. He put him on his own animal, thus walking the rest of the way to the inn.
 - iv. Once at the inn, he took further care of him.
 - v. On the next day, he paid more money for the man to have a room and care until he was healed enough to go home.
- b. He loved his fellow man and was a biblical neighbor.
- c. By lover, I mean a person who acts in the best interest of another despite the cost to oneself.
 - i. It cost the Samaritan time from his travels.
 - ii. It cost the Samaritan money.
 - iii. It cost the Samaritan the loss of his own goods that were used on the wounded man, which he may have later used on himself.
 - iv. It cost the Samaritan energy, having to walk instead of ride and nurse his patient through the night instead of sleep as well as he normally would have.
- d. Love costs because love is an action, not an emotion.
- e. We are to love our neighbor and this parable shows that all are our neighbors.
 - i. We are to love our brethren (1 John 3:11, 14).
 - ii. We are to love our enemies (Luke 6:27).
 - iii. We owe all men love (Romans 13:8).
- f. When we love the lost, we will take the gospel to them as well as meet their needs when possible.
- g. When we love the brethren, we will go to them when they are in sin, we won't gossip about them, or we won't criticize unduly.

Part of this outline came from a lecture by Glenn Colley.