



## Parables

1/29/23

Luke 10:25-37

1. Drew said, “At some level, all of us think that we have to earn our salvation and make God happy.”

\*\*Is this true for you? How has this affected your relationship with God in the past?

2. Drew’s sermon was on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

\*\*Before Sunday, what did you understand the parable to be about?

\*\*If there is a key verse that helps us understand the parable, what is it?

**For more discussion:** Drew interpreted the characters in this parable as an allegory. He mentioned that Jesus is the Good Samaritan and an unsaved person is the man left half-dead. Jesus metaphorically bandages up and saves a person, then brings them to an innkeeper, which are people in the church.

\*\*What do you think about this interpretation? Is it good, new, eyeopening, etc.?

\*\*How does this compare to what you knew of the parable before hearing this sermon?

**For even more discussion:** Throughout church history, the emphasis of Biblical interpretation has changed. Recently, an emphasis has been placed on answering the question, “What did it mean to the original audience?” before we can apply it to our circumstances. But before this recent emphasis on the original audience, many scholars practiced a spiritualized or allegorical approach.<sup>1</sup> For example, Augustine (a 4th century scholar) thought that Jerusalem was heaven, the man represented Adam, and the thieves that beat the man represented Satan bringing sin into Adam’s life. In this case, Jesus is the Good Samaritan and the church is the inn.

\*\*What do you think about this extreme allegorization of a parable?

\*\*Do you think this is a good way to interpret parables?

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on these historical interpretations, or even how Jewish scholars view the Bible, check out this week’s podcast, episode 42 of “More to the Story.”

3. Consider the most surface level meaning of the parable, which could be stated like this: we are supposed to love everyone, which includes our neighbors and especially those we despise (because Jews and Samaritans hated each other).

**\*\*Who is your neighbor?**

**\*\*How are we supposed to love our neighbors?**

**\*\*Are we actually loving our neighbor?**

**\*\*Who do you think God is asking you to care for?**