

The Conclusion

Jesus tells the lawyer to “go and do likewise.” What exactly is he telling him to do? Is it clear?

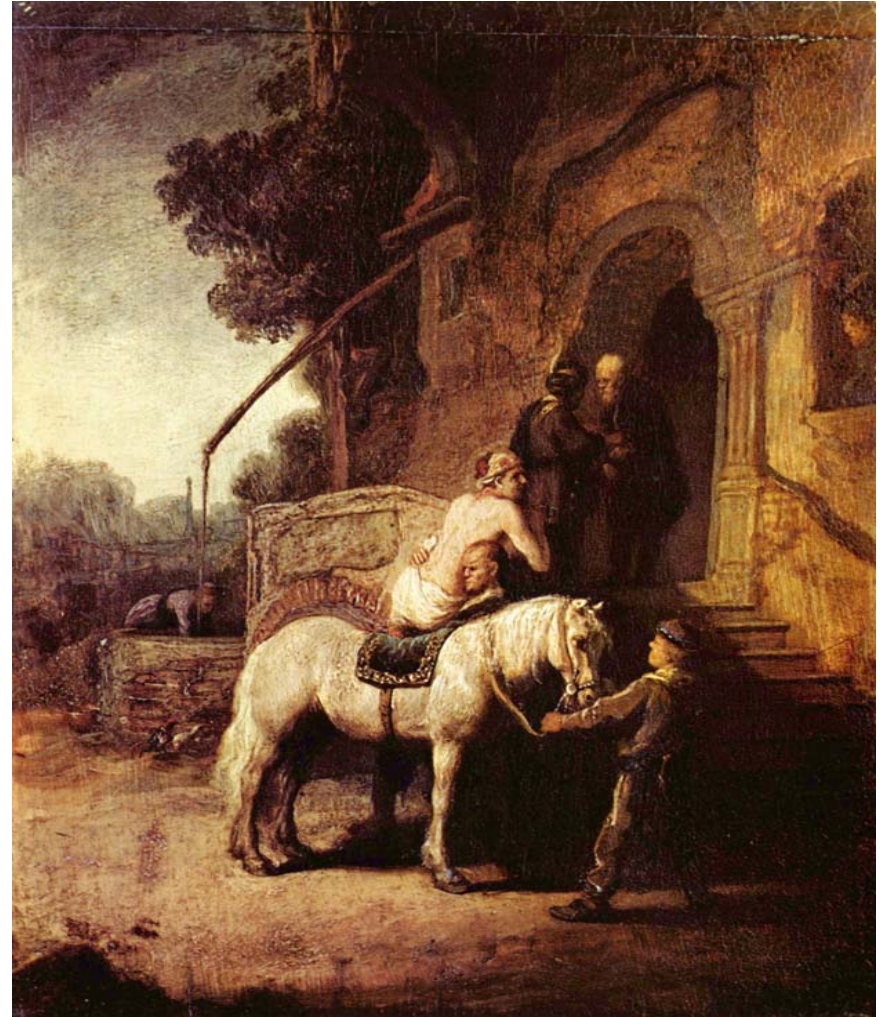
Application

Who is the Good Samaritan supposed to be? Does it stand for us – why or why not? How are we to emulate the radical compassion of the Good Samaritan? What is Jesus calling us to do? (You might want to look at Matthew 19:16-26 to compare.)

What do you think is the mystery of the Kingdom that Jesus wishes to teach us through this parable (i.e., what do we learn about who can inherit eternal life? What do we learn about Kingdom life both now and to come?)

In addition to teaching us about eternal life, the parable seems to correct a prevalent idea about who a neighbor is. Who is our neighbor? Who also can return neighborliness? Why is Jesus’ answer radical?

Parables of Kingdom Life: The Good Samaritan



The Good Samaritan, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1606-1669

Read Luke 10:25-37

Study Questions: *(try to use specific words from Scripture in your answers when possible)*

Context

Examine the literary framework/context of the parable. Identify the characters and the scene. Why does Jesus tell the parable?

The Dialogue

What is the first question that the lawyer asks? What is his motivation for asking it? (Compare his motives with those of Simon from last week, Luke 7:36-50.)

What kind of response from Jesus do you think the lawyer was expecting. Look at Matthew 19:16-26 for a similar question and answer.

The lawyer uses two verses from the Torah for his answer to Jesus' question – Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. What is the lawyer's answer, and does he answer well? (See also Matthew 22:34-40.)

What is the second question that the lawyer asks? What do you think Luke means when he says that the lawyer wished to “justify himself”? How does this motivation shape Jesus' parable?

The Parable

Examine the behavior of the priest and the Levite. Put yourself in their shoes. How might they have justified their actions at the time? Do you ever weigh the cost of an act of mercy before you undertake it?

The third traveler on the Jerusalem-Jericho road is a Samaritan not, as one might expect by the logic of the passage, a Jewish layperson. Why do you think that Jesus breaks the pattern in the parable? Why might he use a Samaritan as the hero of the story?

There are seven things that comprise the Samaritan's act of compassion. What are they, and what do they tell us about the Samaritan and the nature of his care?