

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

OPEN

Describe a time when your plans were interrupted. How did you respond? What caused you to respond that way?

Interruptions are annoying. There's no getting around it. We make plans expecting to follow through on them. But God sees interruptions differently. Whether they come in the form of a man bloodied on the side of the road or a child or spouse asking for our time, God allows interruptions into our life to deepen our spiritual walk.

As we study one of Jesus's most famous parables, that's the truth that will echo from beginning to end. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a striking reminder that people are always more important than our plans and that we display our love for Christ most vividly by loving those around us.

READ

Read Luke 10:25–37.

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Jamin Roller's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how Jamin answers the following questions:

What are the distinctive marks of the people of God? What are the distinctive marks of neighborly love?

Watch Video: The Parable of the Good Samaritan (14 minutes)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/377636>

DISCUSS

How familiar are you with the biblical story of the Good Samaritan? In what ways did Jamin's teaching on the passage differ from how you've typically thought about the story?

When you think of a "good Samaritan," what comes to mind? What qualities would you say characterize this type of person?

How would viewing interruptions as divine opportunities change the way you react to them?

What question does Jesus seek to answer by telling the story of the Good Samaritan? Does God expect his people to love everyone?

Jesus makes it clear that his followers are meant to be known by a distinct love for God and a distinct love for others—not a love that seeks only to care for those we find lovable. Who do you find difficult to love? What are the "boundaries" you've set up for yourself toward loving them?

How does only loving those who are lovable fail to reflect the way God has loved us in Jesus?

Look at verse 30. Based on Jesus's description of the man, what can you tell about him in terms of his dress, speech, and appearance?

Look at verses 31–32. Bear in mind that the priest and the Levite both bore all of the correct religious “labels”—they came from the right families and embraced the right faith. How do they respond to the interruption of the beaten man on the side of the road? Based on your answer to the previous question, what were they reacting to about the man? What specifically about him did they “pass by”?

How did the Samaritan react to the beaten man? How does his reaction model love that prioritizes likeness over difference?

How does Jamin define what it means to love others over self?

Based on verses 33–35, how does the Samaritan demonstrate this kind of distinct love?

How does the story of the Good Samaritan reflect God's love for you through his Son, Jesus? How has he made your problems his own?

As you think about God's love for you in Christ, as well as what you have learned in this session, what are some ways that you can practice prioritizing likeness over difference this week? Who can you work at loving for the fact that they are made in the image of God?

And how can you practice loving others over self? Whose mess can you enter into with a heart of service, making their problems your own?

LAST WORD

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul wrote that Jesus came to die for us, not once we had made ourselves worthy of his sacrifice, but while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8). While we were at our worst, he took our problem and made it his own. Doing so was costly—it cost God his only Son—and excessive, as we now have the gift of eternal life with him through faith. We have hope because Jesus loves us in the distinct way described in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

As you go about your day in the weeks to come, you probably won't stumble across a bloodied victim on the side of the road, but you will be surrounded by people. And every one of them share something in common with you—they are broken and in need of the distinct love of Christ. Whether it's a coworker, a spouse, a child, or your actual neighbor, there are people around you who have messes in their lives and need encouragement in their struggles.

Embrace those interruptions. When they come your way, be a neighbor and love those around you with the distinct love God has shown you in Christ. It will be costly, but it is cost that God deemed worthy of paying to save you from your sin. Go, and do likewise.