

Ordinary Time, Proper 10

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”—Luke 10:27 NRSV

Explore

Who’s Calling

Have the class imitate how their parents call them to wake them up in the morning, call them to dinner, or how their pets are called. Ask them to think about other reasons they might be called and who might be doing the calling.

Extract

Luke, the Gospel Writer

Luke, who was the third of the Gospel writers of the New Testament, wrote about the humanity of Jesus, for Jesus was involved in the lives of the people he met. Luke wrote stories about Jesus as the Son of God and his kindness toward the weak, the suffering, and the outcast. Luke is the only Gospel writer who wrote about the Good Samaritan. Luke was a Greek Gentile, but his knowledge of the customs and beliefs of the Jews, the Old Testament, and the Hebrew style of writing suggests he had adopted many Jewish ways. However, his writing was to the Greek people, using their style. The Greek civilization represented culture, philosophy, wisdom, reason, beauty, and education so that this style appealed to the Greek mind. He wrote orderly, complete, and classical stories. His book is called the “most beautiful book ever written” by many and depicts the beauty and perfection of Jesus as the ideal, universal human. The book also contains parables, Christmas hymns, and stories of joy and thanksgiving. Luke was a physician by trade, which made him an important witness to the miracles of healing. Luke wrote his book around 60 CE while in Caesarea. There he could get firsthand knowledge and accurate information from people who knew Jesus and facts from the first founders of the church.

Bible
Luke 10:25–37/
10:26–38 IV

On the Road to Jericho

There was a lot of tension between the Jews and the Samaritans. The Samaritans had opposed the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem and built their own on Mount Gerizim. Socially, the Samaritans were outcasts, seen as unclean. They did not conform to the laws of the church. The Samaritans were the very opposite of the lawyer, priest, and Levite in the scripture lesson for today. The story that Jesus told shocked the people because Jesus himself had been rejected by the Samaritans just a brief time before. Read Luke 10:25–37/10:26–38 IV. Ask for volunteers to read the parts of the lawyer, Jesus, and a narrator. Have other students act out the other characters as the Jesus reader tells the story.

The town of Jericho was northeast of Jerusalem through the rugged hills and valleys. Jericho was just north of the Dead Sea, therefore in the same land formation as the sea. The road between the two towns was about a seventeen-mile stretch and traveled mostly during the daytime, because at night the road was too dangerous to travel. A lot of robbers and thieves made their living robbing and beating travelers on the road. One author says there are still parts of the old road in Israel that are winding, narrow, and hard to see ahead of where the traveler is going.

The priest and Levite were “ministers” of the Jewish faith, and the people as a whole respected their roles in the church. Today’s lesson is a parable. A parable is a story using everyday life with a spiritual message. Readers are invited to enter the story by imagination, so that they can compare their own lives and understanding to that of the parable. Jesus used a lot of parables to get his message across to the people.

Who Is the Good Guy?

Jesus was talking to a group of his disciples. It was a question-and-answer session. The parable Jesus told was a story of love without preference or partiality with nothing expected in return. Have students participate in their own question-and-answer session with the following questions.

1. What two questions did the lawyer ask Jesus?
2. What do you think the lawyer was trying to do to Jesus by asking these questions?
3. What three questions did Jesus ask the lawyer?
4. What is the greatest commandment?
5. What was Jesus' response to the lawyer's question about eternal life?
6. What is a parable?
7. Who were the six people in the parable? (Note the priest and the Levite were afraid to touch the sick man, because they would be unclean in the eyes of the people and might lose their jobs in the temple.)
8. How did the Samaritan help the injured man? How did he feel toward him?
9. Who was called to act in love in the parable?
10. Which of the three people in the parable did the lawyer choose to be the neighbor?
11. What did Jesus tell the lawyer to do in verse 38?
12. What do you think was the lawyer's reaction to Jesus' reply?
13. How did Jesus show kindness when he used the Samaritan people in the parable?
14. Can you identify with any of the characters in the scripture lesson today? Who and why?
15. What is the theme of the Good Samaritan parable?

paper, pens or pencils

Patient _____ Address _____ Date _____ Instructions _____ <div style="text-align: right;"> _____ Supervising Physician </div>
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Prescriptions

Pretend you are a modern-day Luke. Write a prescription for acts of kindness, acts of mercy, or acts of sharing. Your patient (s) may be individuals, groups, causes, or nations.

copies of prescription form, pens

Expand

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

Jesus calls us to act in love. Do we remember that call? Our actions speak volumes about how we feel about God. Think about how you treat people who can do nothing for you. What boundaries have you placed on your love for others? Do you move to the other side of the road like the priest and Levite, or are you the Samaritan? We are called to respond in love, eat at God's table, recognize the worth of all, and befriend them. Close class with prayer.

Lectionary scriptures—Amos 7:7–17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1–14; Luke 10:25–37/10:26–38 1V