

Questions Jesus Asked Part 5

Sunday 11th October 2020

Luke 10:25 – 37 - The Good Samaritan

CAP

Message

Today is Part 5 of a series entitled Questions Jesus asked !

We are looking at

What is written in the Law? He replied. How do you read it?

The conversation starter “What must I do to inherit eternal life”?

What questions do you have for Jesus? What would you have asked? So this guy asked Jesus this question and Jesus replies what does the scriptures say and he answered **‘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 love your neighbour as yourself’**

Correct !!!! Said Jesus, do this and you will Live

Ok then sermon over, everyone can go home and enjoy your dinner.

Except this wasn't the end of the conversation.

This guy is rather like many of us. He knew his scriptures, he probably spent many hours learning and studying as he was an expert in the law. Many of us know our Bibles back to front, spent hours in Church and have spent a big portion of our life with like minded people. If we were transported back in time and met this guy I believe many of us would see a lot of similarities.

But knowing the answers in your head is not the same as knowing the answers in your heart. You may know that you're forgiven but live like a condemned person. You may know that God loves you and created you, but inside you hate who you are. You may know in your head that you are a Prince or a Princess in Christ but choose to wear rags. You may know in your head that you are a new creation but in practical terms you live like your old self.

The expert in the Law was correct in his answer to Jesus and it says in Mark 12 that he is not far from the kingdom of God. Jesus continues though, with one of his most famous parables 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan'. It's a parable that this expert and all the listeners would have found really challenging.

A guy gets beaten up, robbed and left for dead. People passed him by who really should have known better. The Priest who should be leading people to God, interceding for people walked away, crossing the road, after all nobody was watching!

Another religious guy comes along – a Levite, surely he will help? No, he crossed the road too after all nobody was watching! The half dead man was probably a trouble maker anyway, maybe deserved it.

Oh no ! Here comes one of those people, they hate Jews. Mind you, Jews hated people like this man who was fast approaching – A Samaritan! This Samaritan owed this Jew nothing, in fact the Jew laying almost dead on the floor may have despised this Samaritan, may have encouraged prejudice and racism towards people like this man approaching, after all Samaritans were viewed as half breeds. They were not pure like the Jews they were mixed. The Jews and the Samaritans hated each other. The man stops and looks at this beaten up man and takes pity on him, nobody was watching! He bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine and put him on his own donkey. They went to an Inn where the Samaritan paid at least 2 days wages for this man to be looked after. Which of these three was the real neighbour? The Priest ? The Levite or the Samaritan ? The Expert in the law said the man who had mercy.

Back to us, what does the Scriptures say about the issues we face today? How do you read it? More importantly are you putting the Scriptures into practice? What is God saying to you? What is God saying to us as a Church? It's no good listening to messages across the internet but not do anything about it. If we believe we are a Church for the city centre what are we doing about it? Jesus told the expert in the law to go and do likewise like this Samaritan. We have to go and do likewise with what we believe God is saying.

I don't want to cross the road like the Priest and Levite! I don't want to do the right things only when people are watching! I don't want to be a hypocrite. If God has told us to do something, we must do it. Knowing the words, knowing Scripture is great but if we don't know it in our hearts, if our actions and words don't match up then there will be problems.

What is God's Word saying to me and to you? What is God saying to us as a Church? Whatever it is we need to go and do it!