

Reflection Questions: Luke 10:25-37

For the message, "Love & Sacrifice in the Time of a Pandemic" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on September 27, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" **27** And he answered, "You shall 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." **28** And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **30** Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. **34** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' **36** Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" **37** He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What point do you think Jesus was making by making the hero of the story a Samaritan—someone who was despised for faulty theology and inferior ethnicity—instead of a respectable Jewish leader?
- Are you surprised that Jesus answered a question about eternal life with a story about love? Why or why not? What questions does this prompt in your mind?
- Pastor John said, "The pandemic is not an excuse to avoid loving others, but the new context in which we are to express to love others." How does this help reframe our calling during this time? What do you like about this, and what makes you nervous about it?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Rodney Stark, in his book, *The Rise of Christianity*, said, "Acknowledging the huge death rate, Dionysius noted that though this terrified the pagans, Christians greeted the epidemic as merely 'schooling and testing.' Thus, at a time when all other faiths were called into question, Christianity offered explanation and comfort. Even more important, Christian doctrine provided a *prescription for action*." Discuss the implications of this quote.

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- Rodney Stark makes the following claim: "...had classical society not been disrupted and demoralized by these catastrophes, Christianity might never have become so dominant a faith."
 - How might our light shine in the way we love our city during the time of a pandemic?
 - What are some ways in which this time of testing might actually be an opportunity for Christians to show love and sacrifice, and thereby adorn the gospel by the way we love?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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