



The Good Samaritan - Do you love?

- OPENER: What comes to mind when you think of the story of the Good Samaritan?

Read Luke 10:25-37

- The expert in the law asks Jesus “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” what issues might there be with this question when viewed from a Christian perspective? How is the Jewish perspective different?
REMEMBER: The Jewish perspective on eternity (Olam Ha-Ba or The World To Come) is that all Jews will have a share in eternity but not all shares will be equal. Therefore, this life is about learning to live according to God’s Law (given through Moses) and performing good deeds in order to prepare for the world to come.
- In what way does verse 29 reveal the experts heart? What was he really asking? (See Matthew 5:43-44)
- The Expert is trying to put a limit on God’s command to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ by asking Jesus to quantify the term ‘neighbour’. Do we ever put limitations on our own commitment to Jesus?
- Jesus gives us hardly any details about the Priest and the Levite (only that they “passed by on the other side”). Why do you think this is?
- How many ways did the Samaritan demonstrate love in the story?
- Why do you think Jesus uses a Samaritan as his main protagonist?
REMEMBER: Jesus is telling this story to a Jewish man.
- The Samaritan in this story was fictional but Jesus was not. How did Jesus live out the message of this story? (John 4 is one very obvious example but there are many others)
- Does Jesus’ story answer the experts question?
- Read Matthew 9:10-13 What does Jesus mean when he says “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”? How does it relate to this story? What does this look like in our lives?
- What is the challenge of Jesus final words to the expert? (Verse 37)