

# Loft Underground

## Shades of Red - Week Three

**The loft focuses on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Arguably the most famous parable of Jesus, take a look at Luke 10: 29-37 and underline phrases that most grab your attention.**

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The parable is also about action. Go back and circle everything the Samaritan does in the story.

**A little history – a Samaritan was a person who had one Assyrian parent and one Israelite parent. Because Assyria invaded Israel in 722 B.C. there were many such children! As half-Israelites, Samaritans over the centuries were despised by Jewish leaders in Jesus' day. To get into stereotyping in our time describe the person who shops at the following stores.**

Neiman-Marcus -

Dillard's -

Wal-Mart –

Where have you ever seen these 'crowds' together?

In your opinion, what prevents different types of people from meeting together?

**Jesus' point of the parable is to eliminate stereotyping altogether. The priest (self-explanatory) and the Levite (traditional Jewish tribe of priests) knew that it was right to help the beaten traveler, but refused. So here it is:**

- Describe the kind of person you just do not like.
- Have you ever witnessed a person like that doing the right thing?
- What did you learn?

**Jesus used parables to point out practices in us or in the world that need to change. Frequently, Jesus in Luke's gospel uses the phrase 'a man' or 'a certain man' in parables to point out our role and responsibility in the story. Find the phrase and write one sentence on what you think Jesus is trying to teach.**

- Luke 12:16-21

- Luke 14: 1-4

- Luke 15:11-24

- Luke 16:1-14

- Luke 19:12-26

**Again, the parable of the good Samaritan is about stereotypes. Next time you are in Wal-Mart intentionally people watch. Does the loft congregation look like the people you see at Wal-Mart? Why? Why not? (share your answer with Andy: [anixon@loftchurch.com](mailto:anixon@loftchurch.com)).**