

Jesus the Reason

Jesus the Good Teacher

Luke 10: 25-37

Detailed Outline from the Sermon on February 24, 2008

What made him so good?

What makes a teacher a good teacher? Love of the topic, of course. Love of the student. Caring enough to engage ... The extra care not to leave many students behind.

What made Jesus a good, even great teacher? Authority – not much fist pounding or chest pounding, but a sense in his person and content.

Truth – has its own authority, no matter how or where. He loves his topic (the Father; the Kingdom) and speaks it with piercing clarity.

Engagement – obviously a man “of the people.” Not afraid to mix it up with all types. And he told stories.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A poignant dialogue –An expert in the law asks, “What must I do?”

Jesus responds, “*How do you read it?*”

“Love...and love...”

“*Do this and you will live.*”

“But who is my neighbor?”

The road to Jericho –

Windy... notorious... Jericho... switchbacks... wealthy travelers to vacation homes in Jericho... thieves. So it makes sense that the man is beaten and robbed and left to die.

The priest and the Levite – the people who should have stopped didn't.

The Samaritan did.

Who is he? A theological blasphemer, who worships God in the wrong way on the wrong mountain.

What does he do? He puts his safety at risk; he puts his resources on the line; he disrupts his own travel plans; he does the right thing.

Who is my neighbor? We're left with a double message.

1. Our neighbor is the person in need who is in our field of influence and opportunity.
2. A neighbor is someone who steps in, steps up, puts out and actually helps.

Parables on Prayer

The Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1)

The Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9)

Parables on Stewardship

The Ten Minas (Luke 19:11) – like the ten talents...

The Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1)

A confusing but practical story about getting creative to find win-win solutions.

The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19)

The rich man looks across a great divide to see a poor man being honored in heaven, while he languishes in hell. "Please send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch it to my tongue. It's hot down here."

No, you've had your good things already and Lazarus his bad.

"Then at least send Lazarus to warn my 5 brothers."

"They have Moses and the prophets."

"But if someone from the dead goes to them, they'll change."

“If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, why will they listen to someone raised from the dead?”

The Rich Fool (Luke 12:13)

The man, who on growing larger and larger crops keeps building larger and larger barns. God says, “You fool. This very night your life is over. Who will benefit from what you prepared for yourself?” Jesus says, “This is how it will be for anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

Parables on the Kingdom

The Mustard Seed (Luke 13:1)

The Kingdom of God is like a seed that grows into a tree. Then he says it’s like yeast that works through the whole dough.

The Banquet (Luke 14:15)

The invitation list excuses. “Then go out to the streets and alleys and highways and bring in poor, crippled, blind, travelers...”

The Tenants (Luke 20:9)

Treat the representatives of the landowner badly and finally kill his son.

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-15)

The path...trampled and birds (devil)

The rock...withered; no moisture (doesn’t take root)

The thorns...choked (sins and cares smother it)

The good soil...takes root, grows up, and bears fruit.

The meaning of it all – The seed is God’s word. Jesus hopes that our hearts are fertile soil to receive the Word.

Your story

Jesus is into stories because he’s into people. He knows in the practical sense that we learn best inductively, by way of unfolding truth through the storyline of our lives. He also loves your story...the potential for each of

our lives to take a great turn based on the truth that comes pouring in and makes a claim on us, as truth always does.

One More Story

A son had a strong and kind father, honored by the wise and revered by the simple, and scorned by the shrewd. "Son, you were made for a purpose. Find it. Live into it." So the son set out...learned...worked...forged partnerships and made deals...earned a fortune... It all began to turn on him...his house was lonely...the more toys, the less meaning and pleasure...clean and ordered without the chaos of people problems, but also without purpose. He came to himself. Returned to his father. "Father...but where is my purpose?"

You, like all people, are a work of art; but you were made to bring pleasure to yourself. Take your skill, learning and resources and pour them into the lives of others. And you will be rich.