

Minor Characters In Major Roles

Lesson 9 – Three Samaritans

“You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.”
James 2:24

- Visitors, prayer requests, prayer

Acts and Facts

- “I felt compassion and showed mercy to one who was ignored by others.”
- “Jesus used me to teach that we should all worship in spirit and in truth.”
- “I was one of ten lepers who were made clean.”
- “The Jews despise my countrymen.”

The People of Samaria

1. **Samaria** = Another name for the **Northern Kingdom** of Israel
 - a. Israel **divided** during reign of King **Omri** (888-874 B.C.) (see 1 Kings 16:21-28)
 - i. Omri built the **city** of Samaria as the capital of northern kingdom
 - ii. Today, the site is occupied by a village named **Sabastiyah** (West Bank)
 - b. **Later**, the **whole Northern Kingdom** came to be referred to as **Samaria**
 - c. Wickedness of Omri’s son **Ahab** and his wife **Jezebel** made Samaria infamous
2. Samaritans descended from **Assyrian colonists**
 - a. Northern Kingdom (Israel) **falls** to Assyrians in **721 B.C.**
 - b. Babylonian **captivity** begins in **616 B.C.**
 - c. Return from captivity; Temple **rebuilding** began in **536 B.C.**
 - d. Temple **completed** in **516 B.C.**
3. When Israelites returned from Babylonian **captivity**, they **refused** to allow the **mixed races** of Samaria to help in **rebuilding** the **temple**. So, Samaritans built a temple that **rivaled** the temple in Jerusalem on **Mt. Gerizim** (geah-REE-zim).
4. Overall, Samaritans were **politically and religiously separate** from the Jews
 - a. Jews wouldn't associate **in any way** with them, even though they **both** worshipped **Jehovah** and believed in a coming **Messiah**
 - b. Samaritans only recognized the **Pentateuch**, but were very **orthodox** in their religion

Tell story of **business travelers** in airport, on shuttle buses, in hotels, in restaurants, etc. Looking **beyond the crowds**, constantly on the **phone**, checking their **Palm** organizers, planning their **next move**—totally **focused** on their “mission” and **indifferent** to everything else.

You want to ask them: Will it matter at all in 100 years?

The Good Samaritan

1. <**Read Luke 10:25-37**>
2. The **road** from Jerusalem to Jericho.
 - a. Overall about **15-18 miles** from Jerusalem to Jericho
 - b. Leaving Jerusalem, road descends very **steeply** and winds through many **rocky** places
 - c. It was an ideal place for **robbers** to hide
3. Notice the two who passed by were both **Jews**. Moreover, these two would have been **seen** as more “**Godly**” than the everyday Jew, being a **priest** and a **Levite**

Q: What, if anything, did the Samaritan feel that the others didn't? (**A:** **Compassion** and **mercy**)
Q: What did the others feel instead of mercy? (**A:** Indifference)

4. **Two** types of compassion here—one that led to **action** and one that did **not**
5. <**Read James 2:14-20**>
 - a. James illustrates two types of **faith**—one that leads to **works**, and one that is “**dead**” (remember, “...*the demons also believe, and shudder.*”)
6. **Another** way to think about it:
 - a. A **less mature** faith and a **more mature** faith
 - b. **Hardness of heart** keeps the **first** from growing into the **second**
7. Samaritan had the **action** kind of faith:
 - a. He **went** over to the man
 - b. He **dressed** his wounds
 - c. He **brought** him to an inn
 - d. He **stayed the night** taking care of him
 - e. He **made provisions** for the man's continued care
8. Note the Samaritan's **overriding concern** for the injured man
 - a. In **stopping** to help him on the road (exposing himself to **risk**)
 - b. In offering the **reimburse** innkeeper “*whatever more you spend*” (i.e. a “**blank check**”)
9. Upshot—The Samaritan “*loved his neighbor as himself!*” (as commanded in v.27)
 - a. “*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*” (John 13:35)
10. Remember what Jesus said: “*Go and do the same.*” (v.37)

The Samaritan Leper

1. <**Read Luke 17:11-19**>
2. **Leprosy** and the Jews
 - a. Leviticus 13 lists the **seven types** of Leprosy
 - b. Lepers had to live **outside** the city.
 - c. They had to shout “**unclean!**” when others came near
 - i. How **humiliating** to have to publicly announce your “**sin!**”
 - d. They had to go and show themselves to a **priest** when they received a **cleansing**
 - i. The priest “**certified**” the cleansing, and performed an elaborate **ritual** (Lev 14)
3. Undoubtedly, all 10 were **grateful**, but only **one** glorified God at the moment of healing
 - a. The one that turned around was a **Samaritan**.
4. Here we're seeing **two types** of **gratitude**
 - a. A **selfish** gratitude that causes **no action**
 - b. A **humble**, Godly gratitude that acknowledges the **gift** and the **giver**
5. Jesus points out that only the “**foreigner**” glorified God, and says to the man “*Rise, and go your way; your faith has made you well.*”
 - a. So, what healed the other nine? (**Faith** was exhibited by **all ten** in going to the priest **before they were healed!**) The one with the “more mature” faith is lifted up in this instance.

Q: If a **Catholic** friend asked you to attend a special **Mass**, would you go? Or if a **Mormon** friend asked you attend the **baptism** of his son, would you go? **Why** or **why not**?

The Samaritan Woman at the Well

1. Passing through **Samaria**, Jesus stops at **Jacob's well**
 - a. Show **map**—Jews used to **bypass** Samaria altogether!
2. A **Samaritan woman** comes to the well <Read **John 4:5-10**>
3. Jesus isn't drawn into a discussion of her **heritage**, but teaches her about the “**living water**” only He can give <Read **John 4:11-15**>
 - a. As with the **blind man** of John 9 (“*who sinned, this man or his parents?*”), Jesus isn't bound by the **framework** of the question, but rather puts the **focus** on the **Godly issues**
4. He then tells her to call her **husband**. <Read **4:16-19**>
5. She **believes** He's from God, but **doesn't understand** who she's really talking to <Read **John 4:25-26**>
6. Realizing He's the **Christ**, she leaves her water pot at the well, goes into town, and **invites others** to come and see Jesus <Read **John 4:29-30**>
 - a. There's **two** acts of faith here—telling others, but also letting Jesus into her own life
7. Like Jesus, **we're** also to be **sources** of “**living water**”! <Read **John 7:38**>

Consider these “lowly” Samaritans

1. Their **righteousness** resulted in **action**
 - a. Taking care of the injured man
 - b. Turning to glorify God
 - c. Bringing others to God
2. Exhibiting **righteousness** in the face of **earthly oppression!**
 - a. Good Samaritan
 - i. Strike one: Samaritan
 - b. Leper
 - i. Strike one: Leprosy
 - ii. Strike two: Samaritan
 - c. Woman at the well
 - i. Strike one: Living in open sin
 - ii. Strike two: Being a woman <Read **John 4:27**>
 - iii. Strike three: Samaritan
3. Most would **not** have chosen these three to demonstrate **faith, charity, and righteousness**
 - a. God's **yardstick** is different than man's

“...but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of this world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen...” (1 Cor 1:27-28)
 - b. They didn't “**know it all**” religiously—not the religiously “correct” of their time
 - c. They **humbled** themselves and **submitted** themselves (to man and to God)
 - d. They had the “right” kind of **faith**—the faith that leads to **action** (**righteous** action!)

Characteristics of these Three Samaritans

1. Compassionate
2. Merciful
3. Glorified God
4. Brought others to Jesus