

A NOTE TO PARENTS

The lawyer asks Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answers him, initially, by sending him to the Bible—"What do you read in the Law?" As he himself says at another point, he has not come to overturn the Law but to fulfill it: to live it out, and to make it clear.

In the Law, the questioner finds the most ancient, the most universal of principles. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.* These two rules, found in the Law at Deuteronomy 6:4 and Leviticus 19:18, are linked in this manner at several points in the New Testament, and our 1928 Prayer Book usage of them ("Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith") suggests that it is Jesus who so linked them in the Christian mind. But Luke, in typical fashion, assigns this insight to someone else; Jesus only ratifies it. Perhaps the two sentences were often linked by Jewish teachers. In any case, they are a true "summary of the Law," and also a summary of that ethical center that the Scriptural tradition has in common with all the religions. Honor, or love, God; do to others as you would have others do to you. Piety, and the Golden Rule. Both are as old as the hills.

But the lawyer is not content with pious generalities. He asks the \$64,000 question: *Who is my neighbor?* Human ethical codes since the dawn of history have insisted that we honor our neighbor as ourselves; where they differ is in their answer to that question, "Who is my neighbor?" Who are the people whom I must regard as human, as kin, as like myself ... and who are the outsiders whom I may write off, disregard, dehumanize—who need not touch my heart or my conscience? The history of the Scriptures is the history of God's pressure on his people to widen ever more and more their answer to that question, from "my kinfolk and tribe" to "the chosen people" to "those who honor God and keep the Law" to, finally, "all people, everywhere." The Chosen People become those who are chosen for the job of telling everyone this Good News—that all, everywhere, are chosen, and precious, and loved.

© 1989 by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. All rights reserved.

THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

203 - 624-2520 • www.the-sunday-paper.com



THE SUNDAY PAPER

JUNIOR

Year C
PROPER 10
BCP/RCL

JESUS TOLD THIS STORY:

"One day a man was traveling
through the desert..."

LUKE 10:30



"The man was attacked by outlaws, and badly hurt."

"A priest came by, saw him, and hurried past."



A little later, so did another priest.

"Then a Samaritan foreigner saw him. He felt sorry, and stopped. He took care of the man."

"He brought him to an inn, and paid for the innkeeper to take care of him."



A lawyer once asked Jesus, "The Bible says to love our neighbors, ... but who is my neighbor? Which people am I supposed to love, and which ones is it OK not to love?"

Jesus answered with this story. Then he asked, "Who was the neighbor in the story?" The lawyer said, "The one who helped." He was surprised, because many people in Israel at that time thought Samaritans were no good. But Jesus said, "Go, and be like the Samaritan."

Draw yourself, doing what Jesus said.