

HOW CAN I ENTER HEAVEN?

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

WORSHIP

Hark The Herald,
Reliably True,
Never Once

WELCOME

As of today, do you
consider yourself
naughty or nice
enough to either
enter heaven
or not? Why?

WORD

LUKE 10:25-29

²⁵ And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” ²⁷ And he answered, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” ²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.” ²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

(READ UP TO VERSE 37)

What will you ask if you had a chance encounter with Jesus? Perhaps— **HOW CAN I ENTER HEAVEN?** Many religions have a concept of reward for good deeds in eternity. Whether we like it or not, one day our lives will be judged and weighed. For some people, they believe “**good works + obedience to the 10 commandments = heaven or salvation**” or “**faith + good works = heaven or salvation**”. Still, some believe that “**faith = heaven or salvation**” – it doesn’t matter how they live or what they do with life. But what does the Bible say? It is very clear – “**faith in Christ = salvation, which results in good works**”. The **Parable of the Good Samaritan** explains this.

THE CONTEXT (Luke 10:25-29)

A lawyer (expert of the Law of Moses) was testing Jesus. Jesus, the master teacher, knew the heart of this man, yet because He loved him, He wanted the lawyer to explore his own belief system **by asking him a question**. The assumption of the lawyer was on the grounds of “**can I be good enough?**” – based on performance or merit to enter heaven. Jesus asked him what the Law says. The lawyer combined **Deuteronomy 6:5** and **Leviticus 19:18**, precisely the summary of the law and the Ten Commandments – one must love GOD and love others! This lawyer got it right, so Jesus told him – “Do it”. To love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love neighbors, is repeated in Scripture (ex., **Romans 13:9-10**). The lawyer wanted to “**justify himself**” or be declared righteous, so he asked Jesus another question – **WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?** He wanted to set limitations on “loving my neighbor”. Jesus showed what was wrong with his position – that of self-righteousness, with a parable.

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:30-37)

The story tells of a Jewish man travelling on a dangerous road to Jericho. Robbers attacked him and left him very weak and bloodied. A priest and a Levite passed by, but did not help. Religious people should know about the love of God and loving others – but they did not do anything. Perhaps they had excuses and used the law that forbids them from touching a dead body. The root problem was they did not love God with all their heart, soul, and mind and so they were unable to love the wounded man.

In contrast, the story featured a Samaritan who did the opposite.

Samaritans and Jews didn’t get along well (**John 4:9, John 8:48**), but this Samaritan **FELT COMPASSION** – love in action! He intentionally cared for the man, used expensive materials to clean the wound, took him to an inn and even paid for more than what was required (**vv.33-35**). This love is sacrificial – risking his own life and paying for the cost no matter the inconvenience; it was both lavish and unconditional, and a supernatural kind of love. The parable shows that it is impossible to love like the Good Samaritan. Jesus ends by asking – “**Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?**” – and the lawyer was unable to even say

HOW CAN I ENTER HEAVEN?

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

WORD

“the Samaritan” – instead he said, “**the one who showed mercy...**” (vv.36-37). Jesus shifted the question through this parable – from the limiting question “**who is my neighbor?**”, He casts a question to the lawyer’s heart – **are you a neighbor for others?**

THE HIGH STANDARD OF GOD

In **Luke 6:27-28**, Jesus raises the bar of love – love even our enemies, blessing those who don’t deserve it, and making sure we love God so much with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. If we say we love God but we don’t love others, we are not really loving God (**1 John 4:20-21**)! The reason why the priest and Levite did not help the man was because they did not love God enough. For Jesus, the root problem is our inability to love God – and that’s why we have a problem loving others. Jesus intended to show the inadequacy of already-religious people like the lawyer to truly love God.

APPLICATION

The story is not to primarily encourage people to help others in need but to convict people for not loving God and others perfectly. You need to run to the One who can provide forgiveness for our inability to do this. Jesus intends to show us we are spiritually bankrupt, unable to be like the Good Samaritan – and nobody else can do it, apart from Him. This was intended to humble us to **ADMIT** that we don’t love God enough, and unable to extend love to others. We sin, and unable to pay the legal requirement for our redemption. We must **BELIEVE** that only Jesus can save us – He alone is the Perfect, Good Samaritan – doing everything lavishly save us, and so we must **CALL** on Him who is perfect, and surrender to Him as our Lord and Savior. **Galatians 2:16** reminds us that works do not justify us (declare us righteous), apart from true faith in Christ Jesus. We need Him because we are inadequate, even in our efforts to obey the Law (**Romans 3:19-20**). Once you understand the law, you will know that you are guilty of breaking it. That’s why our justification is only by faith in Jesus (**Romans 3:27-28**).

The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (**Luke 18:9-14**), the two criminals beside Jesus on the cross (**Luke 23:39-40**), and the story of the Converted Jailer (**Acts 16:30-31**) have the same message -- to show us that until we are convicted and crushed by the magnitude of God’s love and our utter failure to love HIM, we will never be humble enough. We love because He first loved us (**1 John 4:19**). We must receive Christ’s extravagant love – allow Him to be the Good Neighbor to us, so that we can be better neighbors for others and exemplify a life that really **LOVES GOD** and **LOVES OTHERS!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Self-Check.**
On a scale of 1 to 10, how sure are you that you are going to heaven? Why?
- 2. Setting It Right.**
Is it possible to be sure? Why and how?
- 3. Living It Out.**
How can you grow in loving God and your neighbor?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are not yet sure how to enter heaven—that they may recognize and admit they are sinners and that they believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Be a good Samaritan to someone this week--share the good news about Jesus to someone in need of salvation.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

- I. Thanksgiving**
Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives
- II. Country and the World**
Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

- III. Church**
That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

- IV. CCF Facilities**
Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

- V. Personal Concerns**
Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 16:30-31

³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”