

# Exploring the Bible Series 3: Parables Unique to the Gospel of Luke



**Week 2 – The Good Samaritan  
(Luke 10:30-37)**

# It's all about asking the right question...

“If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask... for once I know the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than five minutes.” Albert Einstein

Context: Lawyer's First Question:

“Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25)



# Jesus' response to the first question:

He asks another question...or two! (Luke 10:26)

- "What is written in the law?"
  - knowledge, theory, 'talk'
- "How do you read it?"
  - practice, action, 'walk'

Be doers of the word and  
not hearers only!

James 1:22



# The Lawyer answers astutely!

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; **and thy neighbour as thyself.**” (Luke 10:27)

Deuteronomy 6:4 ¶ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself:** I am the LORD.

# Jesus commends his answer...

“Thou hast answered right: this **DO**, and thou shalt live.” (Luke 10:28)

**Echo:** Jesus answered this way himself: Matthew 22:40 “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”  
This is the **WHOLE** of the Law!  
Love God & Love people!



# The lawyer's second question

"And who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10:29)

- This is the WRONG question!!!!
- Why was he not satisfied with Jesus' answer?
- How did he think this would 'justify himself'?
- What is behind this question?



Jesus answers with a parable!



# An interesting social experiment:

“The subjects of this study were undergraduate divinity students at Princeton University. Upon arrival to the experiment room, the subjects were told that the study concerned the ability of divinity students to think quickly, on their feet as it were, in preparation for a public speaking engagement. The experimenters told the subjects that they would have to walk over to another building and give a talk to a group of freshman divinity students. Half of the subjects were told to address employment opportunities for divinity students after graduation, and the others were told to discuss **the parable of the good Samaritan**. This manipulation was crossed with another variable that proved critical - the subjects were told either that they were already late for the talk and had to hurry, that they had just enough time to get to the talk, or that they had a few extra minutes.



# An interesting social experiment:

Darley and Batson's experiment truly begins during the subjects' walk over to the building to deliver their talk. All subjects passed a man who was slumped over against a wall, apparently in need of assistance. The man was, in reality, a confederate of the experimenters. As the subjects passed the confederate, he coughed twice and groaned. If the subjects asked him if he needed help, he said no, but it appeared otherwise. The subject of the sermon had no effect on the rate of helping. Whether the experimenter instructed the subjects to hurry or not, however, mattered a great deal.

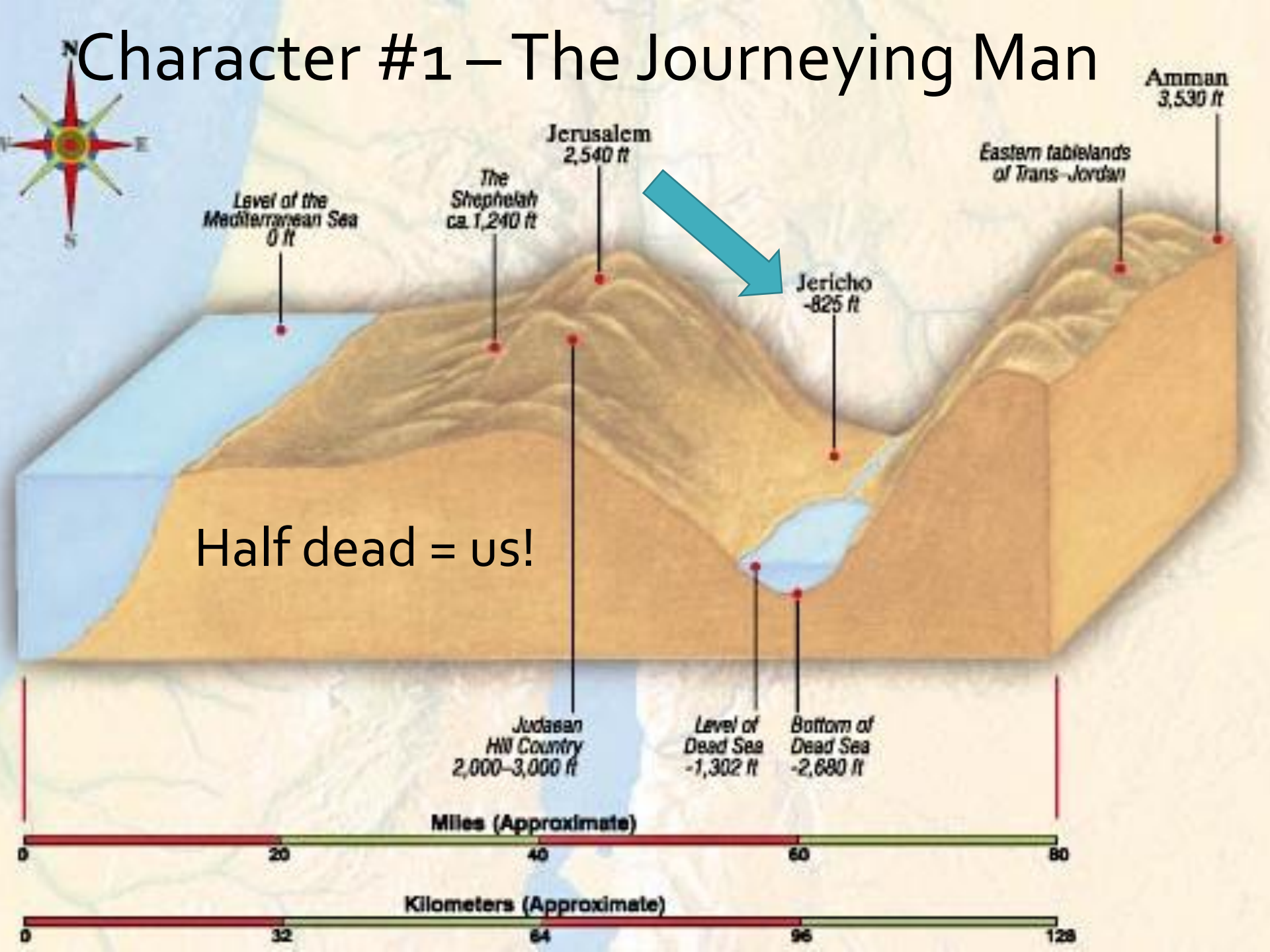
Subjects in a hurry were far less likely to stop and provide assistance than the other subjects.

# An interesting social experiment:

The results of the study are a stunning triumph of mundane features of a situation over social norms. The subjects were, after all, not a random sample of Princeton undergraduates who might lack a dedication to the social norm of helping those in need - they were divinity students. The beliefs that these students doubtless held dear, however, were easily manipulated from an instruction by an unknown experimenter to hurry. **Furthermore, even making the parable of the good Samaritan salient had no real effect on the subjects relative to the instruction to hurry.**

A pro-social norm, it seems, has the most effect when acting on the norm is convenient.”

# Character #1 – The Journeying Man



# Character #2 – The Priest



- Aside: By chance... Really??
- Also going 'down'!
- "saw him" and passed by.
- Why didn't he stop?

# Character #3 – The Levite

- “Looked on him”!
- ‘passed by on the other side’



# Character #4 – The Samaritan

- Came to where he was, saw him...
- Had COMPASSION!
- Repeated word: “And”, and, and, ...he couldn't do enough!!



# Character #5 – The inn keeper



- Given a commission and a wage (an earnest)
- Take care of him!
- I'll repay you when I COME AGAIN!

# Luke 10



29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who **IS** my neighbour?

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, **WAS** neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?