LUKE 10

Lambs, Neighbors and the One Thing

seventy sent in pairs, names written in heaven, a man half dead on the Jericho road, and a sister at the Lord's feet

> *"but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*
> LUKE 10:42

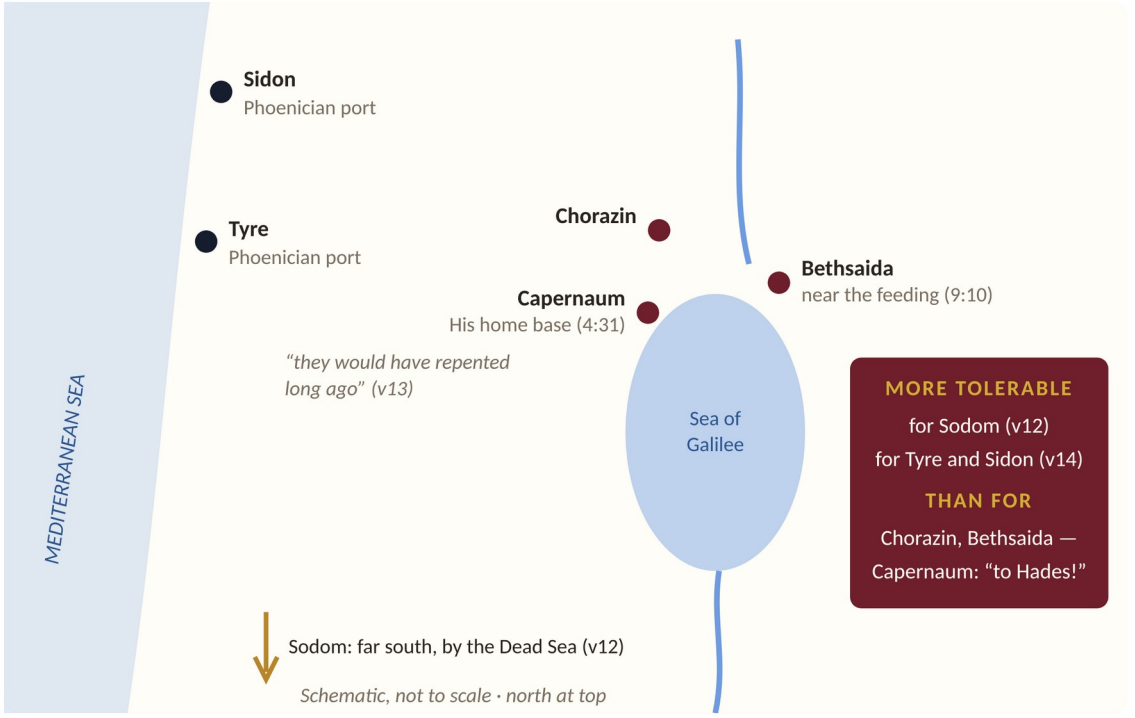
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 9 ended with Jesus “determined to go to Jerusalem” (9:51) and three would-be followers who wanted to follow later.

2. Only Luke records the sending of “seventy others” (v. 1); in 9:1–6 the Twelve had gone out first.

3. The towns named in verses 13–15 sit around the north end of the Sea of Galilee.



Lambs in the Midst of Wolves

Seventy sent in pairs, a plentiful harvest, a word of peace, and woes on the cities that would not repent

LUKE 10:2

And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

DAVID GUZIK

Need is opportunity; pray, then go and answer your own prayers.

R.C. SPROUL

God needs no one to reap; only God gives the increase; degrees of judgment.

C.H. SPURGEON

His Master is coming after him; don't stop and argue; rejection is the crowning sin.

MATTHEW HENRY

Deep concern for souls; good ministers wish for more good ministers.

ἀποστέλλω
APOSTELLŌ · "SEND"

The verb behind "apostle": to send someone out on a mission with a message.

Names Recorded in Heaven

The seventy return with joy, Satan falls like lightning, and Jesus points them to a better joy

LUKE 10:18

And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

DAVID GUZIK

Not from heaven but like lightning; don't get intoxicated by success.

R.C. SPROUL

Satan's power fell; your name is in the Book of Life or not.

C.H. SPURGEON

Grace without talent saves; joy from faith, not from sight.

MATTHEW HENRY

Saving graces outrank spiritual gifts; victory is Christ's power.

ὑποτάσσω
HYPOTASSŌ · "SUBJECT"

A military word: to arrange under, to rank beneath.

Revealed to Infants

Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit and thanks the Father, and blesses the eyes that see Him

LUKE 10:21

At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

DAVID GUZIK

The only time the Gospels say He rejoiced; God uses the weak.

R.C. SPROUL

Hidden and revealed — hard doctrine, pure grace, nothing to boast in.

C.H. SPURGEON

God hates conceit, not ignorance; Christ rejoices in every sovereign act.

MATTHEW HENRY

The gospel's progress gladdens Christ; apostles not fetched from schools.

ἀγαλλιάω

AGALLIAŌ · "REJOICE GREATLY"

Not ordinary gladness but exultation — joy that leaps.

Who Proved to Be a Neighbor?

A lawyer's test, the two great commands, and a Samaritan on the Jericho road

LUKE 10:27

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."

DAVID GUZIK

Excuses, not reasons; my neighbor is the need in front of me.

R.C. SPROUL

Law before grace; universal neighborhood, not universal brotherhood.

C.H. SPURGEON

Near to God but not like Him; Christ did better, our case was worse.

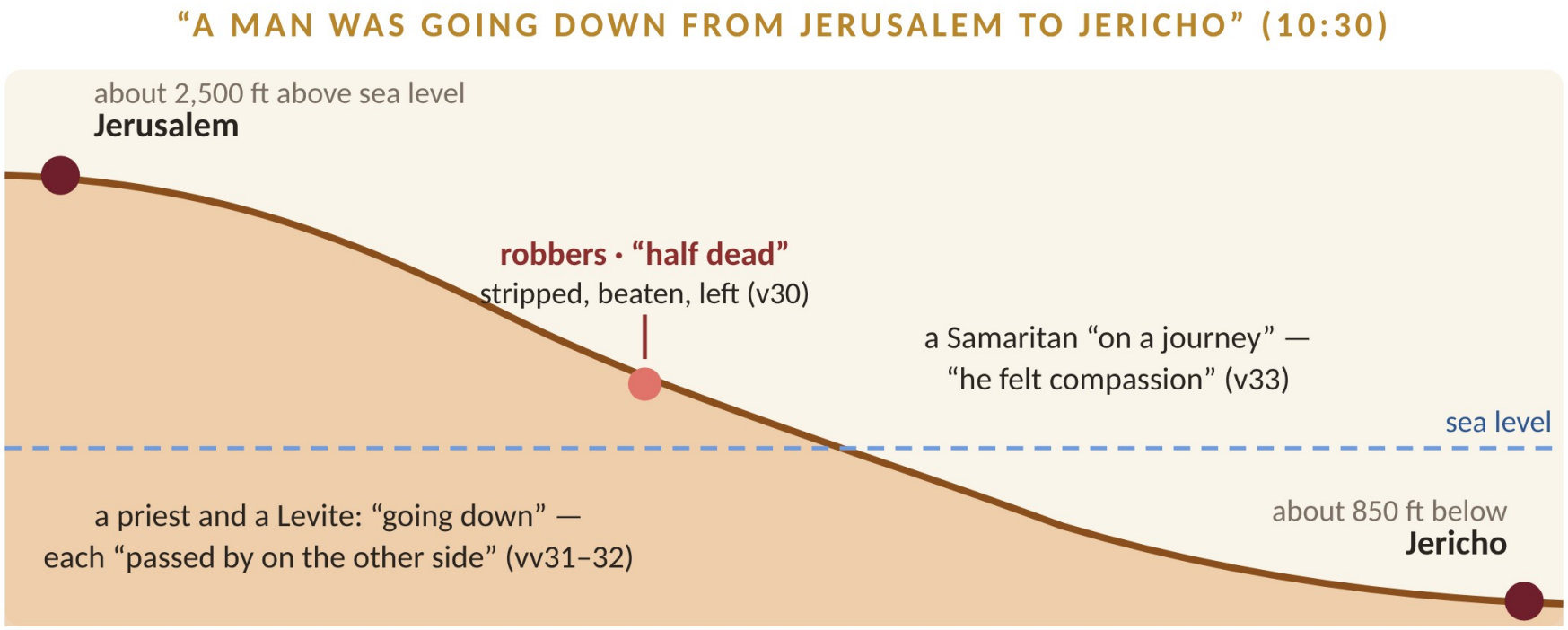
MATTHEW HENRY

We were the traveller; the blessed Jesus is that good Samaritan.

δικαιόω
DIKAIOŌ · "JUSTIFY"

To declare or show to be righteous.

The Jericho road

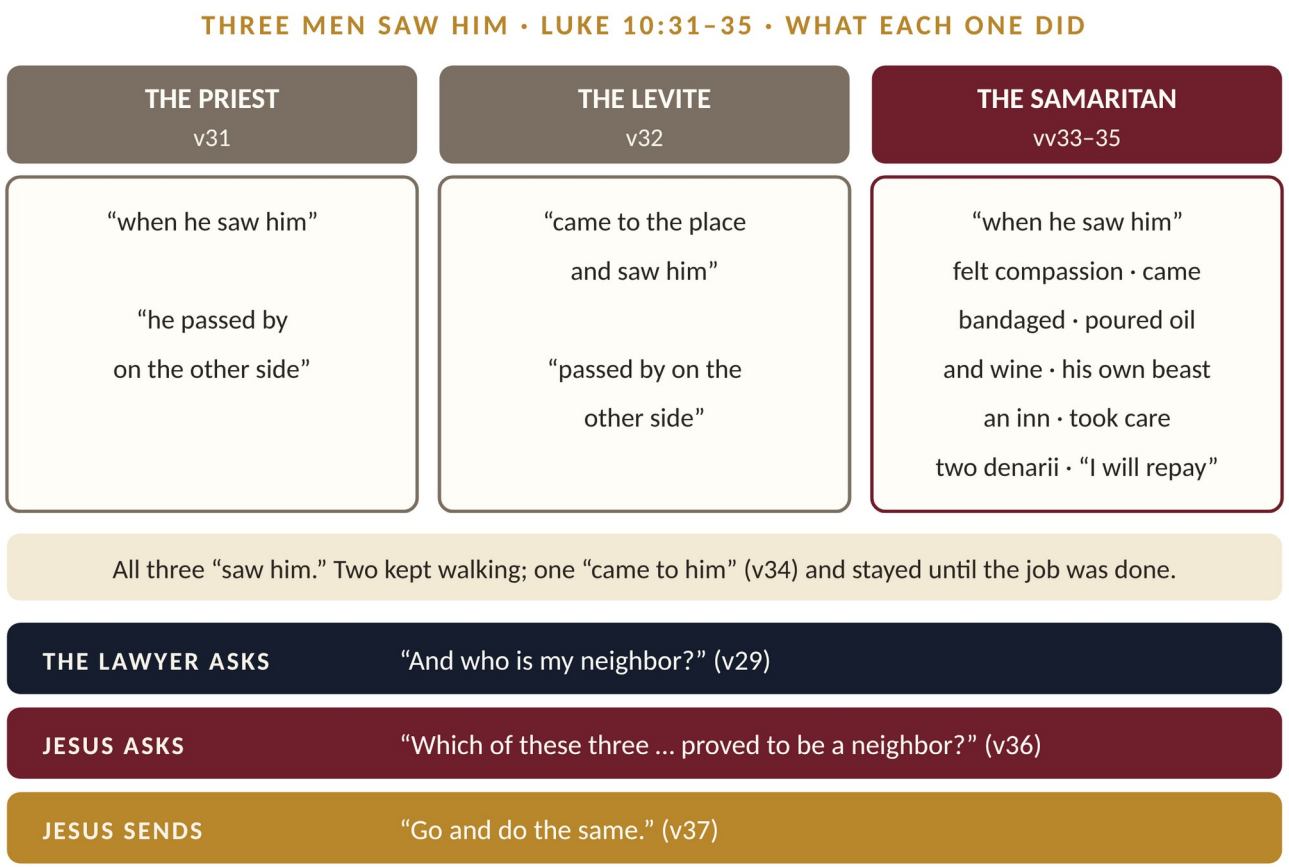


About 17 miles of desert road, dropping roughly 3,300 feet — lonely, rocky and dangerous.

Elevation profile, schematic · figures approximate

The road falls steeply from Jerusalem to Jericho through empty desert — a good place for robbers, and a long way from help.

Three men saw him



Read the columns, then the bars: all three men saw the wounded man, but only the Samaritan's verbs keep going — and Jesus turns the lawyer's question around.

The One Thing Necessary

Martha's many preparations, Mary at the Lord's feet, and the good part that will not be taken away

LUKE 10:42

but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

DAVID GUZIK

Martha's problem was Martha; Mary's part was listening to His word.

R.C. SPROUL

A comparison, not a contrast; souls must be fed.

C.H. SPURGEON

Not that she served, but that she grew cumbered; keep fellowship.

MATTHEW HENRY

Care is duty, cumber is sin; godliness is the one thing needful.

περισπάω
PERISPAŌ · "DISTRACTED"

Literally "to drag around," to be pulled in every direction at once.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Pray, then be the answer.

“Beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers” (v2) — and then “Go” (v3).

2

Sent men carry the Sender.

Apostellō frames verses 1–16: “the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me” (v16).

3

Rejecting light is the heaviest sin.

Sodom, Tyre and Sidon will fare better than Capernaum (vv12–15).

4

Satan fell like lightning.

Not necessarily “from heaven,” Guzik says, but suddenly and decisively — real judgment, “though not complete judgment, which still awaits.”

More to carry

5

Grace outranks gifts.

“Do not rejoice in this … but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven” (v20).

6

The only time He is said to rejoice.

Guzik and Spurgeon both note it: Jesus exults in the Spirit because the Father reveals Himself to “infants” (v21).

7

Grace hides and reveals.

Sproul: “Jesus praised and thanked God, not only for revealing the truth to some, but for concealing it from others” — and so no one can boast.

8

The law drives us to grace.

The lawyer answered “correctly” (v28) and then tried to shrink the command.

Talk it through

1. Jesus told the seventy to pray for laborers and then sent them (vv2–3). Who is the one person I have been praying would hear about Jesus — and what would it look like for me to be the answer to that prayer?

2. Jesus said it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for the towns that saw His miracles and did not repent. What have I seen God do that still has not changed the way I live?

3. What do I rejoice in most — what God does through me, or that my name is written in heaven? How would my week look different if it were the second?

4. Jesus thanked the Father for revealing these things to “infants.” Where does my pride or my need to look smart keep me from receiving what God wants to show me?

5. Like the lawyer, where am I trying to make “neighbor” small enough to be manageable? Who is the man on my road I keep passing on the other side?

CLOSING

Luke 10 sends us out and sits us down. Jesus sends laborers into a plentiful harvest, tells them their names in heaven matter more than their victories, and shows a lawyer what a neighbor does on a lonely road. Then He says the one thing necessary is to sit at His feet and listen — because only the man who has been loved there can go and do the same.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.