

**To Speak in Parables**  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

Mark Vitalis Hoffman  
[www.CrossMarks.com](http://www.CrossMarks.com)

**To Speak in Parables**  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

**WHAT IS A PARABLE?**

Parables function as metaphors challenging or inviting the audience into a new or deeper experience of God's dominion, a dominion identified with those who are the **LAST LOST LEAST LITTLE LIFELESS**

**Other Resources**

Good Samaritan at  
<http://www.newmediabible.org/1goodsam/>

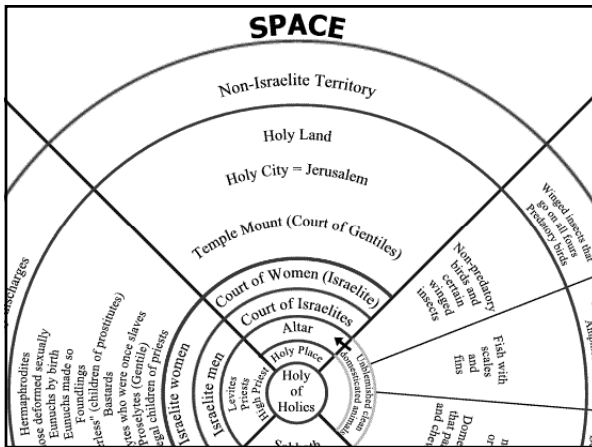
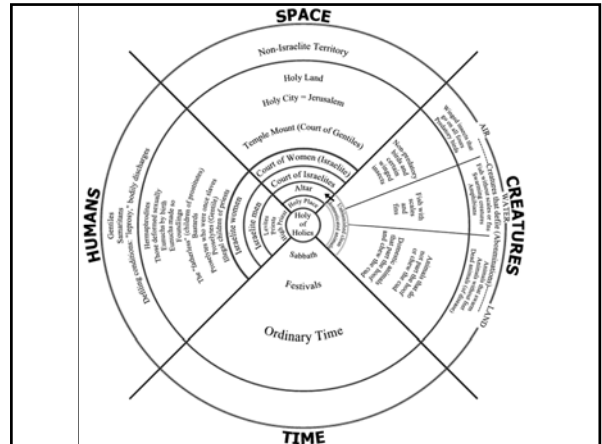
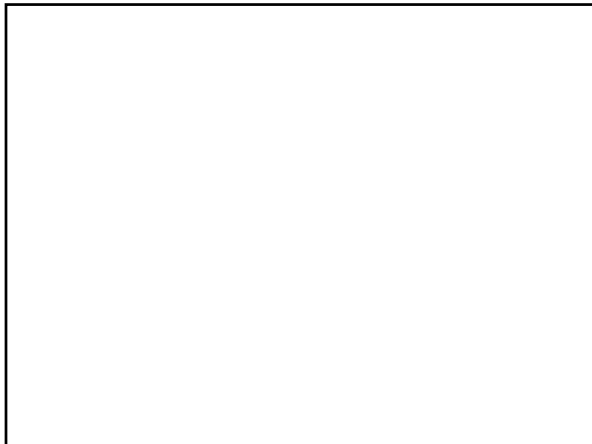
**Parable of the Good Samaritan**

~~Who Was That Thief and What Did He Mean~~



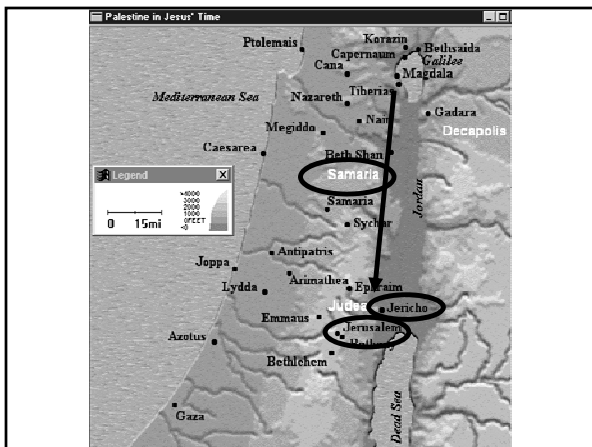
**To Speak in Parables**  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

**Over My Dead Body**  
 Parable of the Good Samaritan



Luke 9.51-55

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.



Luke 9.51-55

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them.

Luke 10.25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up ...

Luke 10.25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

Luke 10.25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he said, “**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

Luke 10.25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he said, “**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

He said to him,

“**What is written in the law? What do you read there?**”

Luke 10.25-28

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;**  
*(Deuteronomy 6.4-5)*

**and your neighbor as yourself.”** *(Leviticus 19.18)*

Luke 10.25-28

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;**  
*(Deuteronomy 6.4-5)*

**and your neighbor as yourself.”** *(Leviticus 19.18)*

And he said to him,

“**You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.**”

Luke 10.25-28

**“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

....

**“You have given the right answer;  
do this, and you will live.”**

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, ...

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

*What is the lawyer really asking?*

WHO is my neighbor?

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

*What is the lawyer really asking?*

Who IS my neighbor?

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

*What is the lawyer really asking?*

Who is MY neighbor?

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

*What is the lawyer really asking?*

Who is my NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10.29-37

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

*What is the lawyer really asking?*  
To whom must I do neighborly acts?

Sirach 12:1  
If you do good, know to whom you do it,  
and you will be thanked for your good deeds.

Jesus replied,

“A person was going  
down from  
Jerusalem  
to Jericho,...



“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,  
and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him,  
beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

ληστίς / lēstēs (1) *robber, bandit, highwayman*, one who  
seizes by violence, in contrast to a thief (κλέπτης / kleptēs),  
who uses stealth (LU 10.30); (2) politically *insurrectionist*,  
*revolutionary, rebel* who favors the use of force (JN 18.40)



Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and  
when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and  
saw him, passed by on the other side.



Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and  
when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and  
saw him, passed by on the other side.

ἰδὼν ἀντιπαρήλθεν  
idōn antiparēlthen



But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and  
when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

ἰδὼν ἐσπλαγχνίσθη  
idōn esplanchnisthē



But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.



Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

*Then Jesus said to the lawyer,*

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

*Then Jesus said to the lawyer,*

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

*What is Jesus really asking?*

*Then Jesus said to the lawyer,*

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

*What is Jesus really asking?*

NOT  
**To whom** must I do neighborly acts?  
BUT  
**Who** did neighborly acts?

*Then Jesus said to the lawyer,*

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

He said,  
“The one who showed him mercy.”

Jesus said to him,  
“Go and do likewise.”

*Then Jesus said to the lawyer,*

“Which of these three, do you think,  
was a neighbor  
to the man who fell  
into the hands of the robbers?”

He said,  
“The one who showed him mercy.”

Jesus said to him,  
“Go and do likewise.”

## What does the parable mean?

- Allegory
- A point or moral
- A metaphoric way of teasing the mind into active thought

## The parable as an allegory

Augustine

- Jerusalem = heavenly existence
- Jericho = earthly existence
- Man = Adam
- Robbers = devil and his angels
  - Stripping = loss of immortality
  - Beating = persuade to sin
  - Half-dead = being under power of sin
- Priest and Levite = Old Testament priesthood which does not save
- Samaritan = Jesus
- Inn = Church and Innkeeper = Paul
- Two denarii = two love commands



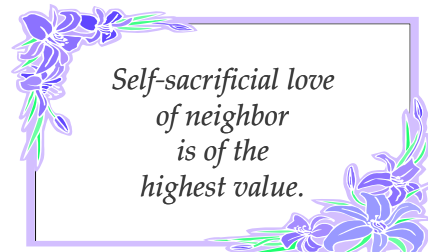
## The parable as an allegory

- Ambrose:  
Allegory allowed for anti-Semitic reading
- Luther:  
Priest/Levite = Law >> Samaritan = Grace

## The parable as a point or moral

Jülicher

This parable provides moral instruction:



## The parable as a point or moral

If a Samaritan can be a good neighbor,  
I suppose I can be one too.

## The parable as a symbolic way of thinking to tease the mind...

LAST  
LOST  
LEAST  
LITTLE  
LIFELESS

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**Man**  
*Stripped and beaten*  
*Almost dead*

Mantegna  
*The Deposition*



Hodler  
*The Good Samaritan*



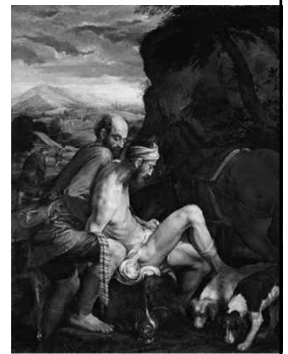
VanGogh  
*The Good Samaritan*

John of Berry  
*Petites Heures*



Caravaggio  
*The Deposition*

Bassano  
*The Good Samaritan*



Copyright © 2000 National Gallery, London. All rights reserved.

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**Man**  
*Stripped and beaten*  
*Almost dead*  
**JESUS**

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**WE**  
are the  
**Samaritan**

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**WE**  
are the  
**Samaritan**

*Being a neighbor is not simply a matter  
of doing good but of identifying with the  
last, lost, least, little, and lifeless.*

The parable as a symbolic way of  
thinking to tease the mind...

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**Samaritan**  
*Despised and rejected*  
*One who heals*  
*One who will come again*  
**JESUS**

Thinking of the last, lost, least, little, lifeless

**Man**  
*Stripped and beaten*  
*As good as dead*  
**US**

What is the Dominion of God like?

Would we even welcome healing /  
salvation from one who is despised,  
rejected, and comes in a totally  
unexpected way?

What is the Dominion of God like?

What if we understand ourselves to be  
as good as dead?  
Now, who will you want as your  
neighbor?

*Over My Dead Body...*

Martin Luther King Jr.—himself attacked in his lifetime  
for being both too radical and too accommodationist—  
once said: "We are called to play the Good Samaritan  
on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act.  
One day the whole Jericho Road must be transformed  
so that men and women will not be beaten and robbed  
as they make their journey through life."

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15895441/site/newsweek/page/3/>  
Let's Talk About Race  
By Raina Kelley  
Newsweek Dec. 4, 2006 issue

GoodSam.ClayEvans.flv