

# Heavy Duty

## Preparation for February 10, 2013 “Indifference or Compassionate Action?”

### Monday – Tuesday

#### 1. Ask the Right Questions – Read Luke 10:25-29

- Based on verse 25, what was the expert's motivation for questioning Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond? Are you surprised at Jesus' response? In other words, if someone asked you what must be done to inherit eternal life, how would you respond?
- Verse 28 may also be surprising. Jesus seemed ready to end the conversation. Why do you think Jesus apparently “let him off the hook” so easily?
- Have you ever asked a question in order to “justify yourself”—to make yourself look better or make someone else look worse? Why do you think the expert in the law wanted to justify himself?
- The man asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” How would you answer that question?

### Wednesday - Thursday

#### 2. Don't Make Excuses – Read Luke 10:30-33

- What is the basic story that Jesus described? Who are the main characters?
- What do you know about the Samaritans? Why did Jesus use the example of a Samaritan in this story?
- Do you think most of the people in Jesus' audience would have held priests and Levites in high regard? Why or why not? (Keep in mind that Jesus was addressing this parable to one specific person—a teacher of the Law. So it's safe to assume that he at least would have had a lot of respect for priests and Levites).
- Was the Samaritan a “neighbor” of the man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, the way we commonly use the word? Why or why not? (While Jesus gave no details about the man who fell into the hands of robbers, if you assume he was a Jew, then the Samaritan would not have been his neighbor. He certainly would not have lived on the same street.)
- How do some of our excuses communicate the same unexpressed feelings of the priest and Levite that we don't want to love our neighbor as ourselves?
- What does it mean, on a practical level, to love your neighbor as yourself? How can you know if you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself?

### Friday - Saturday

#### 3. Respond in the Right Way – Read Luke 10:33-37

- Call out as many details of the story as you can. Where was the Samaritan going? What specifically did he do for the injured man?

- What does having compassion on someone mean? Is it just feeling sorry for someone, or is there more to it than that?
- What did having compassion mean for the Samaritan?
- What would have happened to the man had the Samaritan not stopped and offered help?
- What impact do you think the Samaritan's actions had on the injured man? the inn keeper? the expert in the law?
- How is the question Jesus asked the expert in the law in verse 36 different from the question the expert asked Jesus in verse 29?
- What do you think of the lawyer's response? Do you think it's significant that he couldn't even bring himself to say, "The Samaritan?"
- Based on this parable, how would you define the "right way" to respond to those in need?
- If we were telling this story today, what would the setting be? Who would be the Samaritan, the priest, and the Levite?
- What was the "cost to me" difference between the way the Samaritan and the religious leaders responded to the man in need?
- Why is the "cost to me" generally our first thought when someone is in need?
- Is this a valid thought? Why or why not?
- When have you helped someone in a way that cost you something? How did the decision impact you?
- What did you learn as a result of the experience?

Additional Reading for this week:

1. Who Is My Neighbor?
2. Jericho in Jesus' Day
3. Of Inns and Inns
4. The Jewish Lawyer