

A Certain Samaritan

By: David A. Sargent

Luke 10:30-37, “And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

This is NOT a parable, nor is it an allegory; it is not a similitude or a metaphor. It is an ANSWER to what happened prior to this. Here is great proof that a text without a context is a pretext. The fact is when a passage in the Bible does not tell you that it is a parable or an allegory or a similitude then it is NOT a metaphor and should not be misapplied in any esoteric way to mean something that it does not say.

Now I am not saying you cannot apply this spiritually in a preaching message making the fellow that fell among thieves a lost man; and the Samaritan the Lord. But the passage does NOT say that; and there is no doctrinal president for this as a doctrine. It makes a great homiletic message for the preacher, however as a Bible Teacher I would not teach it as a homiletic preaching message; because it is not in the passage. It is an ANSWER! Luke 10:30, “And Jesus answering said...” What was he answering too? This is the first clue as to what this story means DOCTRINALLY. Spiritually you can make it mean many things. So what! To get the doctrinal application we need to READ: So let's get the context:

The earlier context after he sent out the disciples by twos; and they returned: Luke 10:17-24, “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, **even the devils are subject unto us through thy name**. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. **In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit**, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent**, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and **he to whom the Son will reveal him**. And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”

So the stage is set after this great high and victory that the disciples had here and that in that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit; then come the lawyers who were self-righteous and obviously jealous of this great report and was there when the seventy returned for in the next context we read: Luke 10:25-29, “And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, 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. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: **this do**, and **thou shalt live**. But he, **willing to justify himself**, said unto Jesus, And **who is my neighbour?**” So this lawyer asks the wrong question: “...what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Then notice after the Lord answered him the lawyer was persistent and “...willing to justify himself...” asked another wrong question and this time it was a presumptuous question: “...And who is my neighbour?” Now really, who in their right mind would ask such a stupid question? What do you mean who is your neighbour? So it is on this note that the Lord returns the answer by our text in response to this question and gives the answer: “...Go, and **do** thou likewise.”

Jesus Christ was not “saying” anything esoteric in the passage, there was no hidden agenda, or message, no typology or any hint of any illusion. You can use this passage as

an illustration in preaching, but do not be misled by presumption that Jesus Christ was teaching anything else but what the clear reading of the Scriptures says.

There are seven interpretive applications to Scripture. Many passages have at least three.

1. Doctrinal
2. Prophetical
3. Historical
4. Personal or Practical
5. Reverse Historical or Histro-phetical
6. Spiritual
7. Devotional

Golden Rule of Interpretation

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.

By a continual diet of the esoteric interpretive reading of Scriptures a person will eventually only consider that as “how it works” and not the clear cut reading of the passage. They become thieves of God’s words: Jeremiah 23:30, “Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.”

They become like this lawyer willing to justify himself at the expense of the words of God and at the expense of being a good neighbour. It is for this reason that reading the words precise and exact and getting the right sense and understanding is important. Nehemiah 8:8, “So they read in the book in the law of God

distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.” Without this there would be anarchy similar to that of the confusion as to having a group of about twenty people each with a different version and reading around the room each taking one sentence at a time. Total confusion and anarchy; I have actually been in a situation like this.

1 Corinthians 14:33, “For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” When you read the clear words of the Scriptures you should be able to understand what it means and be like minded with the saints all over the world in the same passage. 1 Corinthians 1:10, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **ye all speak the same thing**, and **that there be no divisions among you**; but that **ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**.” Esotericism is the farthest removed understanding of Holy Scriptures. It is void of reality and truth. The esoteric actually renders Scriptures as mysterious and cryptic and in fact the opposite of understanding. Yes there are mysteries in the Bible; but they are revealed to the believer. The believer is to walk by the same rule and mind the same thing: Philippians 3:16, “Nevertheless, **whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing**.”

It is by BELIEVING the Bible that brings this understanding. Leaving things undone and equating them to being a mystery and therefore no one can know is utter nonsense.

No account reconstruction of the biblical text by resorting to Alexandria Egypt can't give any understanding on anything: Isaiah 30:1-3, “Woe to the **rebellious** children, saith the LORD, **that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin**: That walk to go down into **Egypt**, and have **not** asked at my mouth; **to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh**, and **to trust in the shadow of Egypt!** Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your **shame**, and **the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion**.” Modernism in our biblical translations by the Reconstructionist only adds to the confusion, frustration and mystery.

A mystery requires a revelation: Matthew 13:11, “He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you to know the mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.” And Mark 4:11, “And he said unto them, **Unto you it is given to know the mystery** of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these

things are done in parables:” and Luke 8:10, “And he said, **Unto you it is given to know the mysteries** of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.” As a Bible Believer it IS given to YOU to KNOW the mysteries. Knowing a mystery is understanding it; ergo, it is no more a mystery TO YOU that understand it. Example: Romans 11:25, “For I would **not**, brethren, that ye **should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” If you ARE ignorant of this mystery; then you are without understanding and it is still a mystery to you: WHY? When God TOLD you in this passage what that mystery is; what it applies to; when it will be fulfilled and that if you do NOT know, then you are wise in your own conceits. Your own pride and arrogance has blinded you from the truth.

Another example: Romans 16:25, “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,” A mystery that has been revealed that was kept secret since Genesis 1:1 is now understood by the preaching of Jesus Christ. Do you know what it is? Why not? You should know. This is how the book of Romans ends. It ends with this mystery revealed: By preaching the gospel: “...the obedience of faith...” yet many will miss this because they seek to justify themselves: “...But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?” They are selfwilled, prideful and arrogant and without understanding: 1 John 5:20, “**And we know** that the Son of God is come, and hath **given us an understanding**, that we **may know him that is true**, and we are **in him that is true**, even **in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.**” Do you KNOW this? It says you do.

Mysteries revealed:

1 Corinthians 2:7-8, “But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, even **the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew**: for **had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**”

1 Corinthians 4:1, “Let a man so account of us, as of **the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.**” Do you know what you are a steward of?

1 Corinthians 15:51-53, “Behold, **I shew you a mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Ephesians 1:9-12, “**Having made known unto us the mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

Ephesians 3:3-12, “How that **by revelation he made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, **ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as **it is now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel**: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And **to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”

Ephesians 5:22-33, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, **as** unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even **as** Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore **as** the church is subject unto Christ, **so** let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even **as** Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **So** ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth

his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery**: but **I speak concerning Christ and the church**. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

Ephesians 6:19-20, “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to **make known the mystery of the gospel**, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Colossians 1:26-29, “Even **the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints**: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”

Colossians 2:2-3, “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of **the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God**, and of the Father, and of Christ; **In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.”

Colossians 4:3-6, “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, **to speak the mystery of Christ**, for which I am also in bonds: **That I may make it manifest**, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

1 Timothy 3:9, “**Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience**.”

1 Timothy 3:16, “And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

Revelation 17:7, “And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? **I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her,** which hath the seven heads and ten horns.”

Yet knowing the mysteries is useless unless we help others: 1 Corinthians 13:2, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and **understand all mysteries**, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and **have not charity, I am nothing.**” Knowing all these mysteries does nothing unless you are a neighbour to others having charity. That is what our study is all about.

Luke 10:37b “...Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”