



YES
NO
MAYBE

^| THE PARABLE IN LOMA LINDA'S FRONT YARD

Î In the central lawn of the Loma Linda University campus stands the larger-than-life-size bronze statues of the Good Samaritan parable.

There are several hidden messages that the artist, Alan Collins, included within his design:

- The priest is wearing the traditional robes, has a very prominent, sharp nose, and a frown.
 - The levite is wearing the academic regalia of a doctor and has his hand to his mouth as if he is simply diagnosing a hopeless cause.
 - The Samaritan is represented in the form of a black man.
 - The man who needs help looks remarkably like the face of Jesus.
- Ï Why do you think the artist chose these modern symbols to represent the story to us today?

READ Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Î WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Ï The word for "neighbor" used in verses 27, 29 & 36 is πλησίον [*plesíon*]. It typically means companion, kinsman or friend. It usually doesn't apply to just anyone on earth or to the people living next door to you. In the OT, it referred only to fellow Israelites.

Ï So, who is your neighbor?

Ï Jesus replied to the lawyer's question with a story. Who did Jesus say is your neighbor? (Hint: see Lk. 10:36-37)



¿ What are the defining characters of a neighbor according to Jesus? (vs. 36, 37)

Î "AS" YOURSELF

¿ What does it mean to love your neighbor AS yourself?

¿ (Leviticus 19:18) *kamokha*: "who is similar to you." This is not a comparison of two kinds of love, it is the similarities of two people.

¿ READ Leviticus 19:9-18 (NLT)

° Underline the concrete actions of one who loves someone "as" themself.

9 *"When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. 10 It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.*

11 *"Do not steal.*

"Do not deceive or cheat one another.

12 *"Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely. I am the Lord.*

13 *"Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.*

"Do not make your hired workers wait until the next day to receive their pay.

14 *"Do not insult the deaf or cause the blind to stumble. You must fear your God; I am the Lord.*

15 *"Do not twist justice in legal matters by favoring the poor or being partial to the rich and powerful. Always judge people fairly.*

16 *"Do not spread slanderous gossip among your people.*

"Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is threatened. I am the Lord.

17 *"Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin.*

18 *"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.*

¿ What does this say about the character of God?

1 What "neighbor" currently challenges me the most?

2 How can I be a better neighbor, especially to those I dislike?

3 What do I understand more clearly about God's character, now that I've looked at this Kingdom Tale?

MY
PRAYER

NOTES