

## **Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)**

Adapted for Readers' Theatre by David A. Douthett

*Players: Narrator, Lawyer, Jesus, Man, Robbers, Priest, Levite, Samaritan, Innkeeper*

*The passage can simply be read in parts or the characters of the parable may act out the scene.*

*Suggested staging: Jesus and the Lawyer might stand to one side, the Narrator on the other, and the parable players can do a loose pantomime while reading their parts in the center. Another idea would be for the Narrator to be off stage (perhaps in the back) while the other characters are front and center, as it were.*

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Narrator: *[While not actually part of the text, you might begin by saying, "Jesus had been talking with his disciples after they had returned from doing ministry in his name." Pause briefly to indicate a break.]*

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

Lawyer: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus: "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

Lawyer: "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."

Jesus: "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

Narrator: But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,

Lawyer: "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus: *[Pause, as if thinking how to answer the question, perhaps looking at the Lawyer.]*

"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.

*[If acting this out, don't make it too graphic!]*

Jesus: Now by chance a priest was going down that road;

Priest: \* and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Jesus: So likewise a Levite,

Levite: \* when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Jesus: But a Samaritan while traveling came near him;

Samaritan: and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

Jesus: 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 silver coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said,

Samaritan: 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

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

Lawyer: \* "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus: \* "Go and do likewise."

\* - These lines give you the opportunity to think about the many different possible emotional responses that might have happened here! Choose wisely.