

July 02 | Sunday

Upside Down: A Great Responsibility

Read [Luke 10:25-37](#) and [Matthew 25:14-30](#)



03 | Mon – Who is *my* neighbor? | Read [Luke 10:25-29](#)

This legal expert, an interpreter of religious law and traditions, was asking a rhetorical question. He knew the answer and also knew different teachers give different answers. He was trying to trip up Jesus. Instead Jesus turned the tables on this savvy lawyer. ‘Neighbor’ can have different meanings but let’s take this literally. Who are *your* neighbors? Those who live beside you, in front of you, behind you? When was the last time you had a conversation with them that showed you cared about what is going on in their lives?

04 | Tue – Unexpected source | Read [Luke 10:30-37](#)

Those you would expect to help, the religious people, hurried on by. In this story, the least likely person came to the rescue. Samaritans and Jews avoided one another to the point of crossing the street to keep from meeting each other. Yet it was a Samaritan man who stopped to help and the desperate Jewish man gratefully accepted. Sometimes it is more difficult to admit your need than it is to help someone else. Which easier for you?

05 | Wed – Enemies | Read [Matthew 5:43 to 6:4](#)

Jesus’ teaching here was upside-down. The ancient Greek/Roman culture did not encourage personal charity or forgiveness. Jewish piety offered limited charity but often lived by “an eye for an eye”. What about you? Who are the enemies in your life? What could you do today to follow Jesus’ instructions, with the help of the Holy Spirit?

06 | Thu – What’s mine is mine, right? | Read [Matthew 25:14-18](#)

The emphasis in this story is less about the amount of money each man was given but more about each man’s faithfulness. All three realized the money did not belong to them but not all of them worked to use the gifts to increase the value of their master’s estate. Fast forward to the present. People often say “I earned it so I can spend it any way I want” and it *is* easy to fall into the trap of thinking what you have is ‘yours’. How can you avoid that?

07 | Fri – Actions count | Read [Matthew 25:19-30](#)

Two were called good and faithful servants, while the one who hoarded the money was called lazy and wicked. Pretty harsh words. Does it seem like this third man was more concerned with guarding what he had rather than increasing the value of the one he supposedly served. Are there ways you could increase your efforts to make God look good to those around you who think He is *not*?

08 | Sat – The real ‘disease’ we all fight | Read [Luke 17:11-19](#) and [Psalm 126:1-6](#)

Leprosy devastated the people who contracted it, bringing financial ruin, separating them from family, making them outcasts in the community and in the end, death. By healing these ten lepers, Jesus gave them back their lives, their families, their place in the community and the ability to earn a living. Only one returned to say thank you. And he was a Samaritan. What about you? After God does something wonderful, do you just move on to the next thing you need him to do? What might you do today to cultivate a grateful attitude toward God *and* the people who serve you every day?