

## Life Group Notes

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

**Speaker:** Mark Amos

**Title:** The Good Samaritan

**Passage:** Luke 10:25-37

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#### **The Lawyer**

Somehow this guy is like us. We know a few answers, but we need help to *really* understand.

He might have thought – is Jesus telling this story about me? But I would definitely have stopped to help!

#### **The Ditch**

The ditch represents lostness, godforsakenness. Going away from Jerusalem, where God was supposed to live in the temple. The guy in the ditch needs saving.

#### **The Samaritan**

We need a Samaritan who will save us. Who will get into the ditch with us. Who will bandage our wounds.

The Samaritan is despised, marginal, hated. Just so, Jesus is despised, marginal, hated.

Jesus too is a foreigner.

To accept Jesus, we need to accept the shame, the scandal, the rejection that Jesus faced. Can the lawyer accept Him? Can we?

#### **The Inn**

The lawyer would have been deeply suspicious about this inn. Hospitality was meant to be free. Paying for hospitality was alien. Inns were dodgy!

The Samaritan, by paying for the man, demonstrates true hospitality.

In a seemingly godforsaken inn, on a seemingly godforsaken road, paid for by a seemingly godforsaken Samaritan, the kingdom of Heaven shows up.

The gospel is a gift, but it takes a lot of accepting.

We can only learn how to follow Jesus when we are ready to share life with those different to us, particularly this one, Jesus Christ.

Jesus hasn't given up on you. He is still giving you his full attention.

What do we need to leave in the ditch this year?

Who do we need to invite to our inns?

#### **Questions:**

1. With which character in the story do you identify most, and why?
2. What is your ditch? Is there a situation from which you need saving?
3. "The gospel is a gift, but it takes a lot of accepting." What is it about the gospel that is difficult to accept?
4. Why is it important to talk about the foreignness of Jesus – to identify Jesus with the Samaritan?
5. How does this story fit together with the bigger story that Luke is telling?
6. What does "go and do likewise" mean for you this week?