THE PARABLE OF LAW AND GRACE

Parables
September 13, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 10:25-37
- Luke 18:9-14
- Galatians 3:24
- Romans 8:3-4
- John 5:24

KEY POINTS

- The story does not begin with a man in the ditch. It begins with a lawyer testing Jesus: “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
- The law is clear: love God with everything, and love your neighbor as yourself. Do this and you will live.
- The lawyer wanted to justify himself and limit the command. Jesus would not let him shrink “neighbor.”
- The priest and the Levite show what the law cannot do. It can diagnose the dying man; it cannot save him.
- The Samaritan is a picture of Jesus: He sees us, has compassion, binds the wounds, bears the burden, pays the price, and promises to come back.
- There is no “ding” button that makes us right with God. We all fall short of the glory of God.
- God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: He sent His Son.
- The one who says, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner,” goes home justified. The one who trusts in himself does not.
- Grace does not leave us in the ditch. Those who rest in mercy rise up to give mercy away.

DISCUSSION

- Pastor Bob said this parable is less “be a nicer neighbor” and more law and grace. How did that change the way you heard a story you thought you already knew?
- Where are you still trying to hit the “ding” button and justify yourself before God?
- If the wounded man is us and the Samaritan is Jesus, what part of His care do you most need to receive right now?
- In Luke 18, two men prayed. One trusted in himself; one asked for mercy. Which prayer sounds more like yours this week?
- Resting in grace should make us more merciful, not less. Who around you is “on the side of the road,” and what would compassion look like this week?
- What is one way you can preach this gospel to yourself daily so you stop striving and start living from what Jesus has already done?