

# Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

# NE<sup>→</sup>XT STEPS

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

“Who is my neighbor?”



Tonight, we begin considering a new “issue:”

“Who is my neighbor?”

The title is taken from Luke 10:29b. Jesus was asked this question from a lawyer that was trying to justify himself in reply to Jesus’ statement regarding the greatest commandment:

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.**

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.



29 But he, **willing to justify himself**, said unto Jesus, And **who is my neighbour?**

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*,

34 And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.



The simple definition of “neighbour” is one who is nearby:

**Original Word:** πλησίον

**Transliteration:** plésion

**Usage:** near, nearby, a neighbor.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4139.htm>

Any other person, and where two are concerned, the other (thy fellow man, thy neighbour), according to the Jews, any member of the Hebrew nation and commonwealth

According to Christ, any other man irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4139&t=KJV>

In this story of “The Good Samaritan,” Jesus taught several principles on the meaning of “neighbour” for us to consider:



## I. THE INJURED PERSON

LUKE 10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.

A. The Ambush – “...A certain *man*...fell among thieves...”

B. The Abuse – “...stripped him of his raiment...”

C. The Assault – “...wounded him...”

D. The Abandonment – “...and departed, leaving...”

Psa. 142:4 I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, but *there was* no man that would know me: refuge failed me; **no man cared for my soul.**



1 Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

E. The Agony – “...half dead.” (ἡμιθανής – hā-mē-thä-nā's)

Rom. 5:6 For **when we were yet without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

## II. THE INCONSIDERATE PASSING

Luke 10:31 And **by chance** there came down **a certain priest** that way: and **when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.**

32 And likewise a **Levite**, when he was at the place, **came and looked on him**, and **passed by on the other side.**

A. An Opportunity Met – the awareness = “...and when he saw him...came and looked *on him*...”



B. An Opportunity Missed – the avoidance = “...passed by on the other side.”

**“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.”** – Elie Wiesel

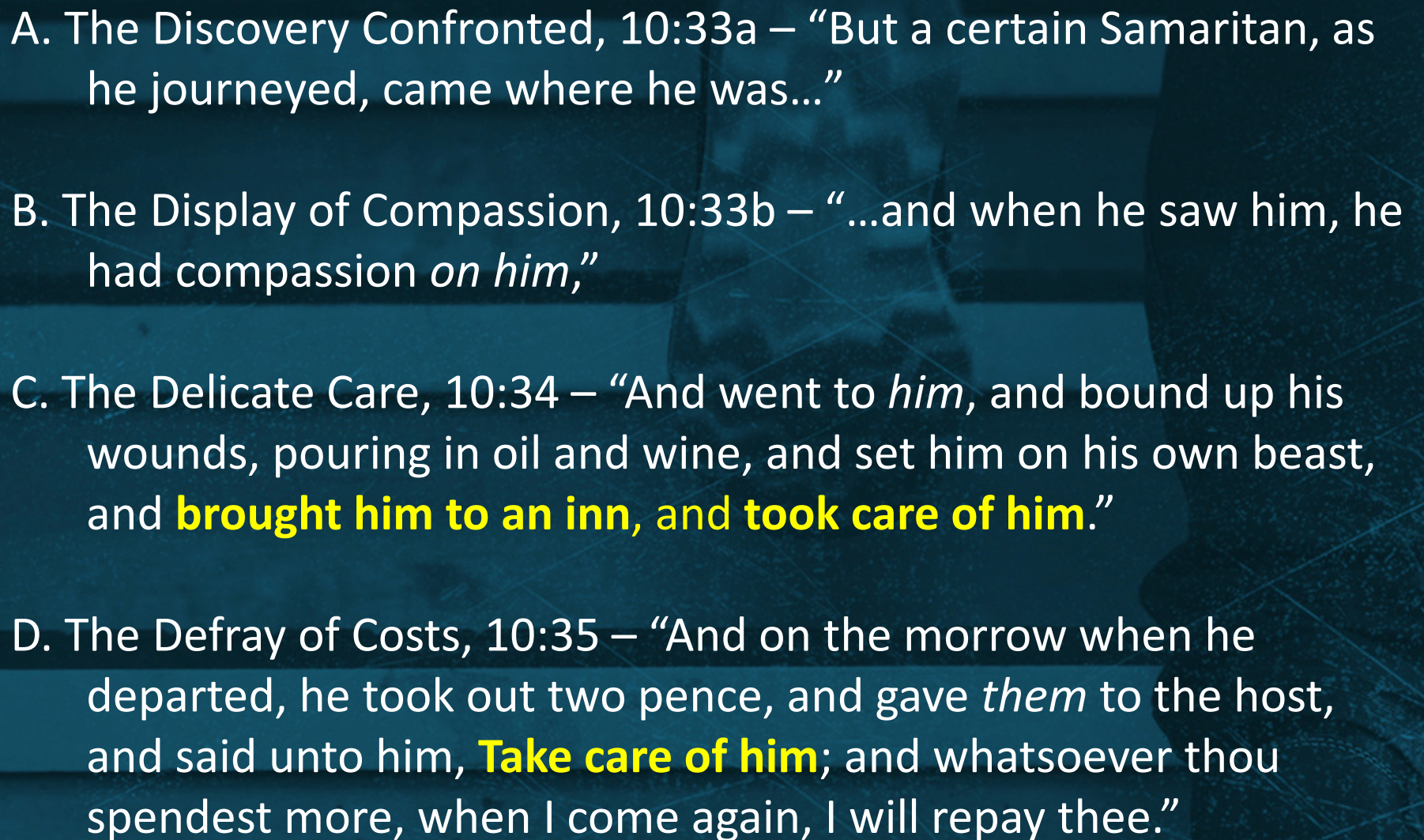
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/677-the-opposite-of-love-is-not-hate-it-s-indifference-the>

### III. THE IMPARTIAL PERCEPTION

Luke 10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, **came where he was**: and when he saw him, **he had compassion on him**,  
34 And **went to him**, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and **brought him to an inn, and took care of him**.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, **Take care of him**; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.



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- A. The Discovery Confronted, 10:33a – “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was...”
- B. The Display of Compassion, 10:33b – “...and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*,”
- C. The Delicate Care, 10:34 – “And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and **brought him to an inn, and took care of him.**”
- D. The Defray of Costs, 10:35 – “And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, **Take care of him**; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.”



**Original Word:** ἐπιμελέομαι

**Transliteration:** epimeleomai

**Usage:** I take care of, attend to.

<https://biblehub.com/str/greek/1959.htm>

1 Tim. 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he **take care of the church of God?**)

#### IV. THE INQUIRY PRESENTED

Luke 10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.



A. The Options to Consider, 10:36a – “Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour...”

B. The Obvious Comment, 10:37a – “And he said, He that shewed mercy on him...”

C. The Obligation to Commitment, 10:37b – “...Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.:

Jas. 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.



## Summary

- ❖ The Good Samaritan overcame prejudice and went out of his way to help.
- ❖ The Good Samaritan became personally involved, getting his hands dirty.
- ❖ The Good Samaritan used his own, personal resources, to help.
- ❖ The Good Samaritan gave of himself, his resources, his time, and his continued care.
  - Before we can reach our neighbors with the Gospel, we must learn to be and to do what Jesus expects a neighbor to be.
  - Love your neighbor as thyself = loving one prejudiced against. The neighbor showed mercy – do likewise!



## Conclusion

Jas. 1:22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but **a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

Jas. 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**, ye do well: