

MISSION POSSIBLE Christ's Great Commission STUDY FOUR

Needed: A Few Good Neighbors

Luke 10:25–37

Jesus gave His best words and did His best work among people on the street.

—Charles R. Swindoll

A highly trained Jewish lawyer, skilled in applying Mosaic law, approached the famous Galilean teacher to show himself competent, even superior. The lawyer's simple question, "Who is my neighbor?" prompted Jesus to answer with a parable so profound that it has rooted itself in cultures worldwide. Some countries even name a certain law after it: the Good Samaritan Law.

Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan clarifies a basic concept by answering the question, "Who is our neighbor?" from the divine perspective. Driven by self-righteousness, the lawyer wanted to nuance God's meaning of neighbor, but his excessive complexity only muddied the second part of the Great Commandment.

In this study on Luke 10:25–37, we join Chuck Swindoll to explore Jesus' conversation with this legal expert that we might gain a fresh perspective from Jesus' timeless story. We will see that like a ball is essential to an athlete or an instrument to a musician, so is a neighbor to a Christian. Basic. Inseparable.

You see, the core issue of Jesus' story has nothing to do with where my neighbor lives, or what he looks like, or what language he speaks, or the color of his skin, or how well we may or may not know him. It has everything to do with what kind of neighbor I am.

—Chuck Swindoll



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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Internalize the prayer below as you prepare to engage God's Word.

Father, thank You for this penetrating parable of truth that still hits us as powerfully today as it did when Jesus first spoke it. I pray that it would take root in my heart, that it would reorient my priorities, and that I would see differently those whom I have previously overlooked in my routine of going from here to there, of doing this and that. Thank You that I am no longer a stranger and exile but a child of God adopted because of Your divine love that sent the eternal Son to live among us. In the name of our Lord and Savior I pray, amen.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

We now enter our final study of Chuck's series *Mission Possible: Christ's Great Commission*. First, we explored Luke 18, which taught us that our God is the God of limitless possibilities. No mission, no task, no goal proves too difficult for the Most High. Next, we listened to Jesus give that indelible command from Matthew 28:16–20: "Go and make disciples of all the nations. . . ." In the previous study, we reviewed the innerworkings of the first church so that, nearly two thousand years later, we can anchor our Spirit-driven churches to the same divinely ordained foundation.

The parable of the Good Samaritan gives us tools to live out the Great Commission day to day.



Observation: Who Is My Neighbor?

Begin by reading [Luke 10:25–37](#). Pause as you do so. Reflect on key words. Ask those inductive questions. Even use multiple translations like Chuck's favorites: the New Living Translation and the New American Standard Bible. Take notes on what you discover.



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What Old Testament texts did the lawyer cite when Jesus reverted the question to him?

What question did Jesus' parable answer?

The Jewish man in the parable traveled from _____ to _____.

Which three individuals passed by the injured Jewish traveler?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

According to Luke 10:37, how did the lawyer describe the Samaritan?

Compassion won't just sit there and be quiet. It accelerates a number of very important steps toward the person to whom your heart goes out. —Chuck Swindoll



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Interpretation: Who Is My Neighbor's Neighbor?

During interpretation, you will need your Bible dictionary, atlas, and commentaries along with any other resources at your disposal for understanding God's Word.

In the conversation, a Jewish expert in Mosaic law posed a question to Jesus, calling Him "teacher." What societal role did the lawyer have? What societal role did Jesus have as Teacher, also called "Rabbi"?

What societal roles did the priest, Levite, and Samaritan have?

How far is Jerusalem from Jericho? Locate these cities on a map in your Bible atlas and note the rugged wilderness through which the road passed.

The New Living Translation says the Samaritan "handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here'" (Luke 10:35). Consult your resources and note how many days the two silver coins would allow the beaten traveler to stay at the



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inn as well as how many days the average person would have needed to work to make that much money. For an online commentary, consult *Constable's Notes* at net.bible.org.

In what sense was Jesus' parable a realistic story for His day and culture?

In what sense was Jesus' parable a radical twist on social norms for His day and culture?



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Was Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" an indirect or direct answer? How did Jesus' answer change the focus of the conversation, and why was this effective as an answer?

The Samaritan saw what others did not see because of the man he was. That to me is the message of the story. What you are determines what you see, and what you see determines what you do. —Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Love One Another

We just studied how Jesus defined the Great Commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). John's short epistle, 1 John, uses the word *love* twenty-six times in just five chapters according to the New Living Translation. Take time to read through that short letter or review a [list](#) of every verse where John mentioned *love*.

What impression did you receive from John's use of *love*?

What importance did love have for John, and how does that still ring true for us today?

We love each other because he loved us first. (1 John 4:19)



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Application: Loving Our Neighbors, One at a Time

For this stage in our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method, we will focus on just one person whom we can love as we would love ourselves.

Begin by choosing that person. He or she could be a family member, a friend, an acquaintance, or even someone you know of but have yet to meet.

Now decide what you can do to express your care for that person. First, pray for that person, then ask the Spirit to guide you as you develop a plan to reach out to him or her. It could be a single act, or it could be a new practice you would like to keep as a routine. Record your plan below.

List below the date you would like to act. Remember: Jesus is with you.

We don't know what happened to the lawyer. I want to believe that he believed. I want to believe he trusted Jesus as his own personal Lord. But I don't know. I want to believe that, as a result of his trusting Christ, he became not a sophisticated professional but a compassionate neighbor. More importantly, I want to believe that that's what we're going to become. —Chuck Swindoll

By the Spirit's power, we can and will become compassionate neighbors!



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A FINAL PRAYER

End this study and series by writing a prayer asking Jesus to increase your role in His Great Commission. This type of prayer accords with prayers the church has prayed from the very beginning. See how Paul wanted the church at Colossae to pray for him:

Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. (Colossians 4:3–4)

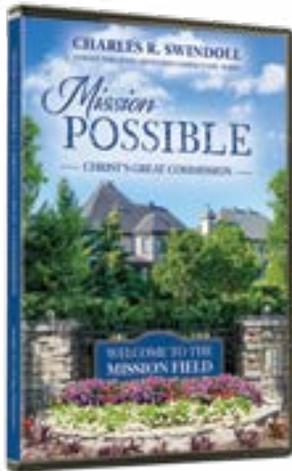


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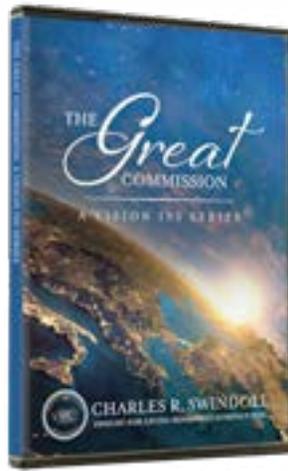
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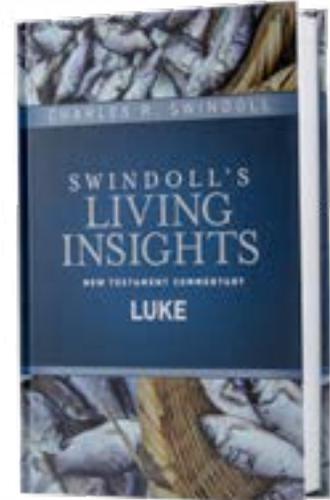
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Mission Possible:
Christ's Great Commission**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**The Great Commission:
A Vision 195 Series**
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For the 2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of Pastoral Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.

