

## “Title or Testimony?”

Luke 10:25-37

**Central Thought:** *Our title doesn't matter in this life. What matters is what we do with our lives and how we do it and if we will leave a lasting impact upon people for Jesus.*

### Observe five characters of the story

- **The traveller** gives us a vivid description of the Condition of a life without **Christ**.
- **The thieves** show us the condition of the **world** around us.
- **The Priest and Levite** describe for us the condition of people with only **titles**.
- **The Good Samaritan** models for us the concern of a person with a **testimony**.
- **The Inn** models for us what the **church** could look like.

- 1) **The traveller** gives us a vivid description of the Condition of a life without Christ.

Romans 3:10-12; Roman 3:23

- When we step onto the bloody road of temptation, we, like this traveller, can put ourselves in **danger** by the roads we choose to walk.

- 2) **The thieves** show us the condition of the world around us.

1 Peter 5:8

- We have been **deceived** and have fallen among thieves, robbed of our joy and peace and left in a state of fear.

John 10:10

- Sin exposes us in a way that makes us feel naked, vulnerable, defenceless, and full of shame.

Genesis 3:6-7

- 3) **The Priest and Levite** describe for us the condition of people with only titles.

- The law that dictated their behaviour had become the focal point of their lives, not who the law pointed to but the law **itself**.

Matthew 23:23-24

- The Priest and Levite followed the letter of the law and the religious rules and regulations, allowing those rules to get in the way of **compassion** and love.

Mark 7:6-8

- 4) **The Good Samaritan** models for us the concern of a person with a testimony.

1 John 3:18

- Jesus is laying the ground-work for what the coming Kingdom of God should look like here on **earth**.
- Jesus talks about the fact that we are to love even our enemies.

- Jesus is saying that **relationship** and testimony was what really mattered, not title.
- The Samaritan was in the midst of creating a testimony and wasn't worried about his title.

**Application - The Inn** models for us what the church could look like.

- We should see this story as a call to action for our faith **community**.
- Our neighbour is anyone in need, and may actually be our **enemy**.
- God may be calling you to be a neighbour to the broken today.
  - You may very well be the only Jesus that the person will ever come in contact with.
- The only title that we need to be concerned about having is “**Follower** of Jesus.”
- Be known as the church full of testimonies.

**Word bank:** Christ, church, community, compassion, danger, deceived, earth, enemy, follower, itself, relationship, testimony, titles, world

### For LIFE Groups and personal reflection

- 1) Read Isaiah 53:3 and compare the stricken traveller with Him whom Isaiah is speaking about.
- 2) Have you ever crossed to the other side of the road to avoid helping someone?
- 3) Have you ever been in the position of the Samaritan? Explain?
- 4) What is the title that has become most important to you and how has that kept you from establishing your testimony?
- 5) Have you ever been in a situation where a 'religious' leader has passed you by in your time of need? Discuss.
- 6) How could ECB better serve our neighbours?
- 7) Has a name come to your mind of an enemy / neighbour who you need to love?
- 8) How can we pray for our Life Group? How can our LG become a good neighbour and to whom?