

**+Vespers+**

*Guitar led Lutheran Worship*

**InContext**



***The Parable of the Good Samaritan***

University Lutheran Church and Student Center

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**In Context: The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

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Adam Douthwaite, Guitar  
Crystal Berner, Vocals

*This is only two sections of our usual bulletin. Because of copyright issues, we have only included the study portions of the bulletin.*

**The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**The Gospel According to St. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter**

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

**The Parable In Our Context – The Good Samaritan**

**And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ... And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."**

Sometimes it seems like the answer is too simple. This lawyer comes up to Jesus and says, "Here's what I read in the Bible, what else do I need to do?" Jesus tells him, "you've got it, you'll live if you do this."

- **Is there a difference in knowing what to do and doing it? Do you think that difference shows up in our religious and spiritual lives?**

**But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"**

We assume that people will let us excuse ourselves out of tough things, things that are too difficult or complex. It's a great excuse to say, "I would do that, but it's too confusing for me," or "I would do that, but I'm not even sure where to start."

- **Do you know anyone who tries to make their spiritual life really complex and confusing?**

Jesus replied...

The story of the Good Samaritan...

### Contextualizing

- What elements of this story are foreign to our context today?
- What do you think Jesus is trying to say in this story?
- Join in writing a contextualized paraphrase of the parable.

Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus takes the lawyer's question and turns it around on him. Instead of answering "who is my neighbor," Jesus asks "what is a neighbor?"

- What IS a neighbor? Whose neighbor are you?

But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Who is Jesus talking about when he talks about the Good Samaritan?

- Is Jesus your "neighbor"? If so, what does your neighborhood look like? Does your neighborhood party? Does it forgive? What would it be like if you lived in an apartment complex with Jesus?

## Next

### +Vespers+ *InContext*:

# The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:21-35



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Please don't throw this away. Take it home and use it devotionally or leave it for others.