

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

There is a Chinese saying that goes like this: “A relative living faraway is no better than a neighbor next door.” When you have an urgent need, a close distance is more critical than a close relationship. Rather than to call and wait for someone to come, you may as well knock on your neighbor’s door. People are willing to offer you help, because they may need your help in the future. Assisting others can even change enemies to friends. My younger son joins the robotics club in school as his extracurricular activity. The group participates in competitions a few times a year. The teacher in-charge shares a neat thing he observes. It is common for teams to run into trouble at every contest. But players from other groups are always willing to share their resources. It can be as little as a few screws. Once a school entered a competition for the first time. The students did not know that they had to assemble their robot ahead of time. Some young people from other schools saw it. They gladly jumped in and built the machine together. Competitors became partners. What a beautiful picture of kindness! Christians must be good neighbors in the world too. People do not care what we believe until they see how we behave. We must show God’s love through actions. The last clause in the mission statement of our church encourages us to: love the world sacrificially. Here the “world” stands for non-believers. If we care about people’s spiritual need, we should care about their physical needs too. Jesus illustrated that point in the well-known Parable of the Good Samaritan.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 分析問題 A Problem to Analyze (v. 25-29)

The story began when a lawyer came to see Jesus. He was an expert and a teacher of the Old Testament Law. The conversation soon changed to the subject of loving God and loving people. As we shall see, this religious leader saw loving others as a problem to analyze. Luke tells us the motive of this man. Verse 25 says he wanted to “test” Jesus. That Greek word has both positive and negative nuances. In this context, the lawyer was trying to trap Jesus in His words. In the gospels, some religious leaders also attempted to stumble Jesus. For example, they brought patients to Jesus and asked if it was permissible to heal them on the Sabbath. Jesus would break their Sabbath rules if He said yes. Jesus unveiled their hypocrisy that they loved their regulations more than they loved God and His people. This time, the lawyer asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. The Jews’ understanding of eternal life was about attaining righteousness so that God would admit them into heaven and give them everlasting blessings. But most Jews thought that they could achieve that result by doing something. In particular, they had to obey the Law. This lawyer asked the right question based on a wrong assumption. Jesus did not correct the man immediately. Rather, He asked the lawyer about his understanding of the Law. Jesus upheld the authority of God’s Word. That was a common ground both of them could agree. Nowadays, most non-believers may not believe what the Bible says. At least they know that it is the foundation of our belief. Therefore, we must uphold the authority of the Bible as we share the gospel. What matters is not what they think or what we think. What matters is what God says. A gospel track will come in handy because it contains some key Bible verses. People in general

share the view of this lawyer that they can earn their way to heaven. But the question is how good is good enough? A civil society says it is wrong to kill a person. But in a barbaric tribe it is right to have a stranger for dinner! Ultimately, there must be a perfect standard that everyone should submit to. God is that final authority. No one can debate or deny. The lawyer showed his understanding of the Law in his answer. He says in verse 27: **“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.”** He combines two Old Testament verses in his response. Deuteronomy 6:5 tells people to love God whole-heartedly. Leviticus 19:18 asks people to love their neighbors as themselves. Jesus praised the man for his perfect answer. Jesus surely knew human psychology. People will love to hear others’ approval. Most seeker friends will quickly shut their ears when they feel that we think we are holier than them. Our role is to guide them to the light. We can affirm people’s good intent and behavior, then we show them a better way to live. Many non-believers love money because they look for security in a wrong place. We can tell them that only God gives us peace. Workaholics work long hours may want to ensure a better future for their family. We can share our experience that God provides for all of our needs. Proud people try to win people’s acceptance. We let them know that God knows our weaknesses but He loves us anyway. The lawyer had the knowledge. Jesus challenged the man to apply what he knew. If he believed that obeying the Law could earn him eternal life, then he must do so accordingly. Jesus followed the logic of the man until he hit his blind spot. That is God’s wisdom! The lawyer was not persuaded yet. Look at verse 29: **But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”** The lawyer had a clear idea about how to love God. He taught people to worship God on the Sabbath, make the correct amount of offerings and do other things required by the Law. Most Jews believed that doing all that could keep a good standing with God. But the lawyer was not sure about who his neighbor was, so that he could fulfill the requirement of love. It appeared to be a sincere question. Deep down inside, the man still wanted to maintain an upper-hand in the argument. He tried to prove that he was right and looked for a loophole to defeat Jesus. In those days, the religious leaders defined neighbors as people in God’s covenant. Therefore, according to this view, people must either be Jews by birth or foreigners converted to the Jewish belief before they could share God’s blessings. The lawyer wanted to fulfill a minimum requirement of loving neighbors. In his mind, there were some “non-neighbors” whom he did not need to love. As we shall see, Jesus used the Parable of the Good Samaritan to correct the lawyer. The misconception of the lawyer shows us the danger of legalism. We need rules to maintain orders and ensure fairness. For example, running a red light causes danger to yourself and others. However, love should have no limit. It would be funny to ask how little we should love others to get a passing grade from God. Instead, we should look for ways to love others more. God loves us abundantly. He hates every sin, but He loves every sinner. We should model after His love. Love is showing grace with wisdom. Jesus did not reject the lawyer’s inquiry, even though He knew the man was testing Him. Jesus patiently led the lawyer to the truth. He then left room for the man to change his perspective.

## 2. 憐憫弱者 A Person to Sympathize (v. 30-37)

To the lawyer, loving a neighbor was a problem to analyze. However, Jesus saw a neighbor as a person to sympathize. Jesus used a parable to illustrate His point. The lawyer could surely identify with the story. At that time, both Jerusalem and Jericho were major cities. Traveling between the two locations was common. This seventeen-mile trip was well-known for being

dangerous. It was a winding path through a desert surrounded by caves. It is more like driving through the hill country in Arkansas than going from here to the downtown area. In Jesus' days, thieves were hiding and waiting somewhere to prey on innocent people. Jesus described the victim as half-dead. He desperately needed a rescue. The priest and Levite were both religious workers. All the priests were descendants of Aaron from the tribe of Levi. Only the priests could offer sacrifice. The rest of the Levites were servants for other temple duties. Jesus did not elaborate why the priest and Levite did not offer help. They might be busy or they did not want to become unclean by touching a corpse. Regardless, they saw a needy person but they gave no help. Only the Samaritan took the hassle to care for the victim. The Jews despised the Samaritans for being unclean half-breed people. Let us consider what we can learn from the Samaritan. What does it take to help a stranger? First, it takes **time**. The Samaritan paused his trip, which might delay his plans. Perhaps you need to spend a few hours to comfort a friend who has just lost a loved one. Love must come with sacrifices. Second, it takes **risk**. What if the victim faked his injury, and his accomplices came out and robbed the Samaritan? Once a young man sat outside of our church. Jimmy gave him some food and water. He lives with his aunt. They had a quarrel that morning. He did not want to go home. He asked us to take him to a homeless shelter. Finally, we called the police. An officer brought the young man home. God gave us wisdom to navigate through some uncertainties. Third, it takes **effort**. The Samaritan treated the victim the best he could. He poured oil on the wounds, which has a medicinal effect. He also used wine, which is a disinfectant. We can use what we have at hand to show love too. You can give away your take-home dinner to a homeless person under a bridge. Once I was waiting in line at a Walmart to return something. A man wanted to use the phone in the store to call his wife. A clerk did not give him permission. I told the guy: "You can use mine." Problem solved! The Samaritan went a few steps further. He put the injured person on his animal. That would mean that the Samaritan had to walk. Next, he took the man to an inn. He asked the innkeeper to take care of the victim. He promised to settle the bill on his way back. Why was the Samaritan willing to do all that? Jesus explained in verse 33: "But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion." The Greek verb translated as "had compassion" pictures the gut churning in a person. It means the misfortune of a needy person touches someone's heart and drives the person to actions. When everyone believes that someone else will do it, then probably it ends up no one doing it. Our perspective will change if we are the needy person. Once my family was eating with someone at a restaurant. When we were about to drive home, someone at the parking lot noticed that I had a flat tire. I drove to a nearby gas station to get some air. Then I realized that I needed to replace it with a spare tire. It was dark at night and I did not want to get my hands dirty. Therefore, I called roadside assistance. I was told that someone would show up in 45 minutes. Sometime later, a man drove by and asked if I needed help. I explained the situation to him. He was so kind to install a spare tire for us. To show my appreciation, I offered to buy him some fermented beverage. This Good Samaritan refused and just took off. We will be motivated to help others after we receive help from someone. There are needy people everywhere. All we need to do is to see, stop then serve. In reality, it is impossible to help every person. There are many charity agencies and humanitarian organizations that serve specific targets. That can be the elderly, the disabled or even people in under-developed countries. You can donate money, food or clothes to support their work. After telling the parable, Jesus hit home with some final remarks in verses 36-37: "36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Jesus turned the original question

from the lawyer around. Instead of asking who my neighbor is, Jesus asked: to whom I am a neighbor? The answer is obvious. Just like the Samaritan did, you show yourself to be a neighbor by helping someone in need. The lawyer understood God's requirements. But would he obey God's command to "love your neighbor as yourself?" Jesus was not proposing that a person can inherit eternal life through good work. No one can! Salvation is God's free grace obtained by receiving Jesus through faith. Jesus illustrated what genuine love should look like. The lawyer knew the Law. But the Samaritan applied the spirit of the Law. Today we are called to be Jesus' disciples. We should display God's love to our neighbors regardless of their background. We do not need to find a neighbor. We only need to be a good neighbor. We should not only proclaim God's love. We must also practice God's love.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

People in the world is looking for true love. They do not care what we believe until they see how we behave. If we care about people's spiritual need, we should care about their physical needs too. Actions of love are powerful and contagious. Sometimes, all it takes is one person to trigger a chain reaction of love. A recent big news in the sports world is the injury of Damar Hamlin. He is a football player of the Buffalo Bills. He collapsed in a game on January 2 after he collided with another player. He suffered from a cardiac arrest, and CPR was administered on the scene. Hamlin was subsequently taken to a nearby hospital. He showed great improvements afterward. Eleven days after the accident, Hamlin was able to go home. We see the beauty of mankind if we focus on the expressions of genuine love. Players from both teams circled around Hamlin, kneeled down and prayed when he was receiving medical care on the field. Signs, banners and billboards asking people to pray for Hamlin showed up in every professional football game. Hamlin actually has a heart to help people too. Two years ago when Hamlin began his professional career, he started a charity in his hometown for people to donate Christmas toys for kids in underprivileged families. He set a goal of \$2,500. Since the accident, close to nine million dollars has been collected. One person's suffering results in great responses of love. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ suffered for the whole mankind. Today, we are called to follow the example of Jesus' sacrificial love to the fallen world. We who have experienced God's love should be eager to love others. Love will not save people's soul, but it is an effective way to lead them to the Savior of souls.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

中國人有句俗語說：遠親不如近鄰。當你有緊急需求時，住得近比關係密切更重要。與其打電話等人來救你，倒不如敲鄰居的門。別人願意幫助你，因為他們將來可能需要你的幫助。幫助別人甚至可以化敵為友。我的小兒子在學校參加製造機器人的課外活動。小組每年都會出去參加比賽。負責的老師分享他觀察到一件很有意思的事情。隊伍在每次比賽中碰到麻煩是很常見的。但是其他小組的人總是樂意分享他們的資源，可能別人需要的只是幾顆螺絲。有一次一間學校第一次參加比賽。同學們不知道他們必須預先組裝他們的機器人。其他學校的年輕人看到這個情形，他們提供協助，一起把機器組合起來。競爭對手成為合作夥伴。那是多麼美好的場面！基督徒也必須是世上的好鄰舍。人們不理會我們信什麼，直到看到我們的行為。我們必須藉著行動來表達神的愛。我們教會使命宣言的最後一句鼓勵我們要：犧牲地愛世人。這裡的「世人」是指非信徒。如果我們關心人們屬靈上的需要，我們也應該關心他們生活上的需要。耶穌透過好撒瑪利亞人的比喻中說明了這一點。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 分析問題 A Problem to Analyze (v. 25-29)

經文說有一位律法師來見耶穌。他是舊約律法的專家和老師。他們的話題很快就轉到愛神和愛人上面。我們將看到，這位宗教領袖將愛他人視為一個需要分析的問題。路加告訴我們這個人的動機。第 25 節說他想「試探」耶穌。這個字在希臘文有正面和負面的雙重意思。在這裡，律法師企圖用他的話來難倒耶穌。在福音書中，一些宗教領袖也嘗試挑戰耶穌。例如，他們把病人帶到耶穌面前，問是否可以在安息日醫治他們。如果耶穌說沒問題，祂就會違反他們安息日的規定。耶穌揭露出他們的假冒偽善，他們愛自己的規條勝過愛神和愛人。這一次，律法師問耶穌他必須做什麼才能承受永生。猶太人對永生的理解是達到公義，使神接納他們進入天堂並賜給他們永恆的祝福。但是大多數猶太人認為他們可以通過行為來達到那個結果。特別是，他們必須遵守律法。這位律法師提出了正確的問題，但是他的假設卻是錯誤的。耶穌沒有立即糾正這個人。祂問律法師對律法的理解。耶穌維護神話語的權威。這是他們雙方都認同的基礎。如今，大多數非信徒可能不相信聖經的內容。至少他們知道聖經是基督徒信仰的根據。因此，當我們在傳福音時，必須堅持聖經的權威。重點不是

他們的意見或是我們的看法，而是神怎麼說。我們傳福音之時可以帶一些單張，它們包含一些關鍵的聖經經文。人們普遍認同這位律法師的觀點，以為可以通過積功德進入天堂。但問題是要做到多好才算夠好？一個法治的社會說殺人是錯誤的。但是在野蠻的部落裡，把一個陌生人宰了來吃是可以的！最終，必須有一個完美的標準，是每個人都必須服從的。神就是最終的權威，沒有人能夠爭論或否認。律法師在他的回答中表明了他對律法的理解。他在第 27 節說：「你要盡心、盡性、盡力、盡意愛主—你的神；又要愛鄰舍如同自己。」他的答案結合了兩節舊約經文。申命記 6:5 告訴人們要全心全意地愛神。利未記 19:18 要求人們愛人如己。耶穌稱讚這個人正確的答案。耶穌當然知道人的心理。人們都喜歡聽到其他人的認可。大多數福音朋友如果覺得我們認為自己比他們更聖潔時，他們會很快閉上耳朵。我們的責任是引導他們走向光明。我們可以稱讚人們良好的動機和行為，然後向他們介紹更好的生活方式。許多非信徒喜愛金錢，因為他們希望找到安全感。我們可以告訴他們，只有神能給我們平安。工作狂長時間做事，他們可能希望家人有更好的生活。我們可以與他們分享神如何供應我們所有的需要。驕傲的人希望贏得別人的認可。我們讓他們知道神了解我們的軟弱，但祂卻接納我們的不足。律法師有知識，耶穌挑戰他要付諸行動。如果他相信遵守律法能夠賺得永生，那麼他就必須照著去做。耶穌依據這個人的邏輯來與他討論，直到他碰到自己的盲點。這就是神的智慧！但是律法師還不肯認輸。請看第 29 節：那人要顯明自己有理，就對耶穌說：「誰是我的鄰舍呢？」他知道如何愛神。他教導人們在安息日敬拜神，獻上合宜的奉獻，並做其他律法所要求的事。大多數猶太人相信，做了這一切之後便可以與神保持良好的關係。但律法師不確定他的鄰舍是誰，使他能夠實踐愛鄰舍的要求。這似乎是一個真誠的問題。其實他內心深處，還是想要在辯論中佔上風。他要證明自己是對的，並尋找漏洞來攻擊耶穌。在那時候，宗教領袖將鄰舍定義為在神聖約中的人。因此，按照這種觀點，只有天生的猶太人，或是改信猶太教的外邦人，才能分享神的祝福。律法師想要滿足愛鄰舍的最低要求。在他的心目中，不是他鄰舍的人便不需要去愛了。耶穌之後用好撒瑪利亞人的比喻來糾正律法師。他的錯誤觀念使我們看到律法主義的危險。我們需要規則來維持秩序和確保公平。例如，闖紅燈會對自己和他人造成危險。然而，愛應該是沒有界限的。如果問我們應該愛別人多少才算及格，這會是個搞笑的問題。我們應該是尋找更多機會愛別人。神愛我們。祂恨惡任何罪，但祂愛每一個罪人。我們應該效法神的榜樣。愛是以智慧顯示恩典。耶穌沒有拒絕律法師的詢問，儘管祂知道那個人是在試探祂。耶穌耐心地帶領律法師明白真理。然後，耶穌給他空間來改變自己的觀點。

## 2. 憐憫弱者 A Person to Sympathize (v. 30-37)

對律法師來說，愛鄰舍是一個用來分析的問題。然而，耶穌將鄰舍視為需要憐憫的弱者。耶穌用一個比喻來說明祂的論點。律法師肯定很熟悉故事的背景。當時，耶路撒冷和耶利哥都是主要城市。經常有人來往兩個地點。這段十七英里的路程充滿危險。那是一條穿過沙漠彎曲的小路，沿途有一些洞穴。你可以想像是穿過阿肯色州的山路，而不像從這裡開到市中心的大馬路。在耶穌的時代，盜賊會埋伏在角落等待搶奪路人。耶穌形容受害者是半死的。他迫切需要救援。祭司和利未人都是從事宗教事務的人。所有祭司都是利未支派，亞倫的後裔，只有他們才能獻祭。其餘的利未人是負責別的聖殿工作。耶穌沒有解釋為何祭司和利未人沒有伸出援手。他們可能很忙，或者不想因為接觸屍體而變成不潔淨。無論如何，他們看到一個有需要的人，但他們沒有提供幫助。只有撒瑪利亞人盡力地照顧受害者。猶太人看不起撒瑪利亞人，認為他們是不潔淨的混血兒。我們可以從撒瑪利亞人身上學到什麼？首先，幫助別人需要**時間**。撒瑪利亞人暫停了行程，這可能會耽誤他的計劃。也許你需要花幾個小時來安慰剛失去親人的朋友。愛必然帶有犧牲。另外，幫助別人也許要承擔**風險**。如果受害人假裝受傷，他的同黨出來搶劫撒瑪利亞人怎麼辦？有一次，一個年輕人坐在我們教堂外面。吉米 (Jimmy) 弟兄給了他一些食物和水。那個人和他的姑姑住在一起。那天早上他們吵了一架，因此他不想回家。他要求我們帶他去流浪漢收容所。最後，我們報了警。一名警員把年輕人帶回家。神給了我們智慧來處理一些不確定的情況。第三，幫助別人需要**心力**。撒瑪利亞人竭盡所能地服事受害者。他在傷口上澆了油，它有藥用的療效。他還用了酒，這是一種消毒劑。我們也可以用手頭上的東西來表達愛。你可以把外賣的晚餐送給天橋下面的流浪漢。有一次我在沃爾瑪排隊等候退東西。一位男士要求借用店裡的電話連繫他的太太，一名職員拒絕了他。我告訴他：「你可以用我的手機。」問題解決了！撒瑪利亞人甚至超過他的義務。他把受傷的人放在他的動物身上，這意味著他自己要步行。接著，他把傷者帶到旅店。他要求老闆照顧傷者，並答應在回來時支付所需的費用。為什麼撒瑪利亞人願意做這一切？耶穌在第 33 節解釋說：「**惟有一個撒馬利亞人行路來到那裏，看見他就動了慈心。**」「動了慈心」這個希臘文的動詞形容一個人的腸子在裡面攪動。它的意思是一個人的心被有需要的人所觸動，使他採取行動。當每個人都以為別人會去做之時，很可能最終沒人去做。如果我們是那個有需要的人，我們的觀點就會改變。有一次我和家人跟朋友在餐館吃飯。當我們正要開車回家時，在停車場有人注意到我的輪胎漏氣了。我把車開到附近的加油站打氣。然後我發現我需要更換備胎。當時有點晚，我也不想弄髒自己的手。因此，我打電話向保險公司求助。對方告訴我大概在 45 分鐘之內會有人來。過了一陣子，一位男士開車經過，問我是否需要幫忙。我向他解釋情況。他很有愛心地為我們換了備胎。為了表達我的感激，我想買啤酒請他喝。那位好撒瑪利亞人拒絕了，然後就走了。當我

們得到別人的幫助後，我們就會被激勵去幫助別人。到處都是有需要的人。我們應該要多注意、停下來然後去服事人。實際上，我們不可能幫助每個人。有許多為特定對象服務的慈善機構和救援組織。它們服事的可能是老年人、殘疾人士，或者是第三世界國家的人。你可以捐錢、食物或衣服來支持它們的工作。耶穌講完這個比喻之後，祂在第 36-37 節中提出祂的重點：36 「你想，這三個人哪一個是落在強盜手中的鄰舍呢？」37 他說：「是憐憫他的。」耶穌說：「你去照樣行吧。」耶穌把律法師原先的問題倒轉過來。耶穌不是問：我的鄰舍是誰，而是問：我是誰的鄰舍？答案很明顯。就像撒瑪利亞人所做的那樣，你通過幫助有需要的人來表明自己是別人的鄰舍。律法師明白神的要求，但是他會遵守神的命令愛人如己嗎？耶穌並不是說一個人可以透過行善賺取永生。沒有人做得到！救恩是神白白賜予的恩典，是藉著接受耶穌而獲得的。耶穌說明了愛該有的表現。律法師認識法律，但是撒瑪利亞人活出律法的要求。今天我們蒙召成為耶穌的門徒。我們應該向鄰舍展示神的愛，無論他們的背景如何。我們不需要找鄰舍，我們只需要成為一個好鄰舍。我們不應該只宣揚神的愛，我們也必須實踐神的愛。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

世人都在尋找真愛。人們不理會我們信什麼，直到看到我們的行為。如果我們關心人們屬靈上的需要，我們也應該關心他們生活上的需要。愛的行動是強而有力並具有感染力的。有時候，只需要一個人就可以觸發愛的連鎖反應。最近體育界的一宗大新聞就是達馬·哈姆林的受傷。他是水牛城職業美式足球隊的球員。他在 1 月 2 日一場比賽中與另一名球員相撞後倒地。他的心臟曾經停止跳動，需要在現場進行心肺復甦術。哈姆林隨後被送往附近的醫院。之後他有明顯的康復。事故發生十一天後，哈姆林便能夠回家休息。如果我們只專注於人們愛的表現，我們就會看到人類美善的一面。兩隊球員圍著哈姆林，在球場跪下來禱告。在往後一週的每場職業足球比賽中，你都可以看到人們舉起牌子，請求大家為哈姆林禱告。哈姆林其實也有心願幫助別人。兩年前，當他開始職業生涯時，他在原來居住的城市創辦了慈善機構，希望人們為低收入家庭的孩子捐贈聖誕玩具。他設定了 2,500 美元的目標。自從事故發生以來，已收集了近九百萬美元。一個人的受苦掀起許多愛的回應。兩千多年前，耶穌基督為全人類受苦。今天，我們蒙召效法耶穌犧牲之愛的榜樣。當我們經歷了神的愛之後，就應該主動地去愛別人。愛不能拯救人的靈魂，但卻會帶領人們去尋找靈魂的救主。