

# MORE TO THE STORY

## JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

August 10-16, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

### This Week's Big Idea:

Our human tendency is to make the law easier on ourselves, but Jesus made it tougher on us so that we would learn to rely on him instead of our ability to do everything right.

### Scripture and Study:

**KEY TEXT:** Luke 10:25-42 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

Jesus made a habit of making the law harder to fulfill... Do not commit adultery becomes do not think lustfully. Do not commit murder becomes don't hold anger in your heart. And love your neighbor becomes love your enemy.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus answers the question, "Who is my neighbor?" with a story that flips expectations. A priest and a Levite pass by a wounded man without helping him. But a Samaritan, viewed as an outsider and enemy by the Jewish people, stops. He cares, binds wounds, and pays for the man's recovery. Jesus takes loving your neighbor and turns it into showing compassion and mercy to your enemy.

The next story may help us understand why Jesus raised the bar of fulfilling the law to impossible heights. Mary sits at Jesus' feet, listening, while Martha serves. Jesus gently corrects Martha's anxiety, saying Mary has chosen what is better.

Serving others is essential and we must love our neighbor. But the fuel for that service must come from a life rooted in Christ. Otherwise, like Martha, we end up distracted, burnt out, and missing the point. The way to eternal life is found at the feet of Jesus, not by doing enough to get everything just right. Jesus raises the bar of the law so we see our need for complete dependence on him.

### Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the priest and Levite passed by?
- What are modern-day examples of "neighbors" we might overlook?
- How does sitting at Jesus' feet prepare us to love others?
- Which story, the Good Samaritan or Mary/Martha, challenges you more right now? Why?

### Apply It:

- Spend 10 minutes each morning this week quietly reading or listening to Jesus' words.
- Limit distractions (social media, noise) during one hour a day to be more present with God.
- Write a prayer asking God to help you see your "enemies" through His eyes.