Introduction

* Last week we were uncomfortable with the sending of the 72 disciples because of one word – evangelism
* This week we meet one of the best-known figures in the Bible – the Good Samaritan
* So, what could possibly bother us about the Good Samaritan?
* Our text involves a debate between two experts in Jewish Law

SET THE STAGE: A lawyer wants to know what he must do to inherit eternal life.

* His question reveals a legalist
* SOCRATIC METHOD: Jesus responds to his question with a question: *What is written in the Law?*
* The lawyer conflates the two tables of the ten commandments
* What he ignores is Leviticus 19:34 which includes strangers as his neighbor
* Wishing to justify himself with prankish pride – he asks: *And who is my neighbor?*

Jesus responds with the Parable of the Good Samaritan

The exchange between two experts in the Law consists of two rounds

Round Two: the lawyer is snared - asking *who is my neighbor* implies some are not my neighbor

At the top of the list of neighbors are priests and Levites

If Jesus wanted to teach a Jew to include Samaritans as a neighbor – the injured man would be a Samaritan

How do we interpret the Good Samaritan?

* The world - fast shuffle
* Parochial level – sons of Jacob reconcile
* Gospel and inheriting eternal life - the Good Samaritan is Jesus
* Sanctification and neighbor - the unnamed man is Jesus

The message of the Good Samaritan

* Jesus is our neighbor
* We are a neighbor clothed in Christ
* Jesus serves the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, and prisoner through us
* Our eternal inheritance is a gift of grace through faith *imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven* [1 Peter 1:4]
* The Good Samaritan and Judgment Day repeat the mantra – GRACE ALONE
* Proverbs 31: 8-*9* has the last word