

# Loving Your Neighbor

Pastor Steve Lee  
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**Dave  
Goetz**

*(Death by  
Suburb)*

The last times my wife Jana and I purchased a home, we decided beforehand how much we could spend. Then, in the process of securing a loan, we learned that, technically, we could afford much more than what we had agreed upon. The bigger-is-better argument made good sense: "Your income will rise, so your payments will eventually be easier to make. Plus, property is a good investment. There's a limited supply of land; it will always go up."



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When the real estate agent drove us around to look at homes, I read between the lines: “You don’t want to buy in this neighborhood”—meaning, “You can afford more, move up a level.” A volcano of insecurity began to erupt: *We’ll never get a house we really like. I need to make more money.* It hurts when you can’t buy the house you think you need.



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*(Death by  
Suburb)*

Why do I feel as if I'll never have enough? Why am I oblivious to much of what I have—except that which is just out of reach? I hesitate to call this chronic emotional state *evil*, because doing so feels like vitiating the horrible atrocities that play out on the world stage each day. But could it be? Could this obsession with the good life just out of my grasp be a covert manifestation of evil in my life?



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*(Death by  
Suburb)*

Who will ask me the real questions:  
“Will buying this house honor God?  
Will it give you a sense of peace? Or  
will it add to your stress?”



**Romans**  
**7:19, 24**

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. . . .  
What a wretched man I am!  
Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

**Matt**  
**16:24-25**

Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
“Whoever wants to be my  
disciple must deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow  
me. For whoever wants to save  
their life will lose it, but whoever  
loses their life for me will find it.

## **John 13:12-15**

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

**Luke**  
**10:25-26**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

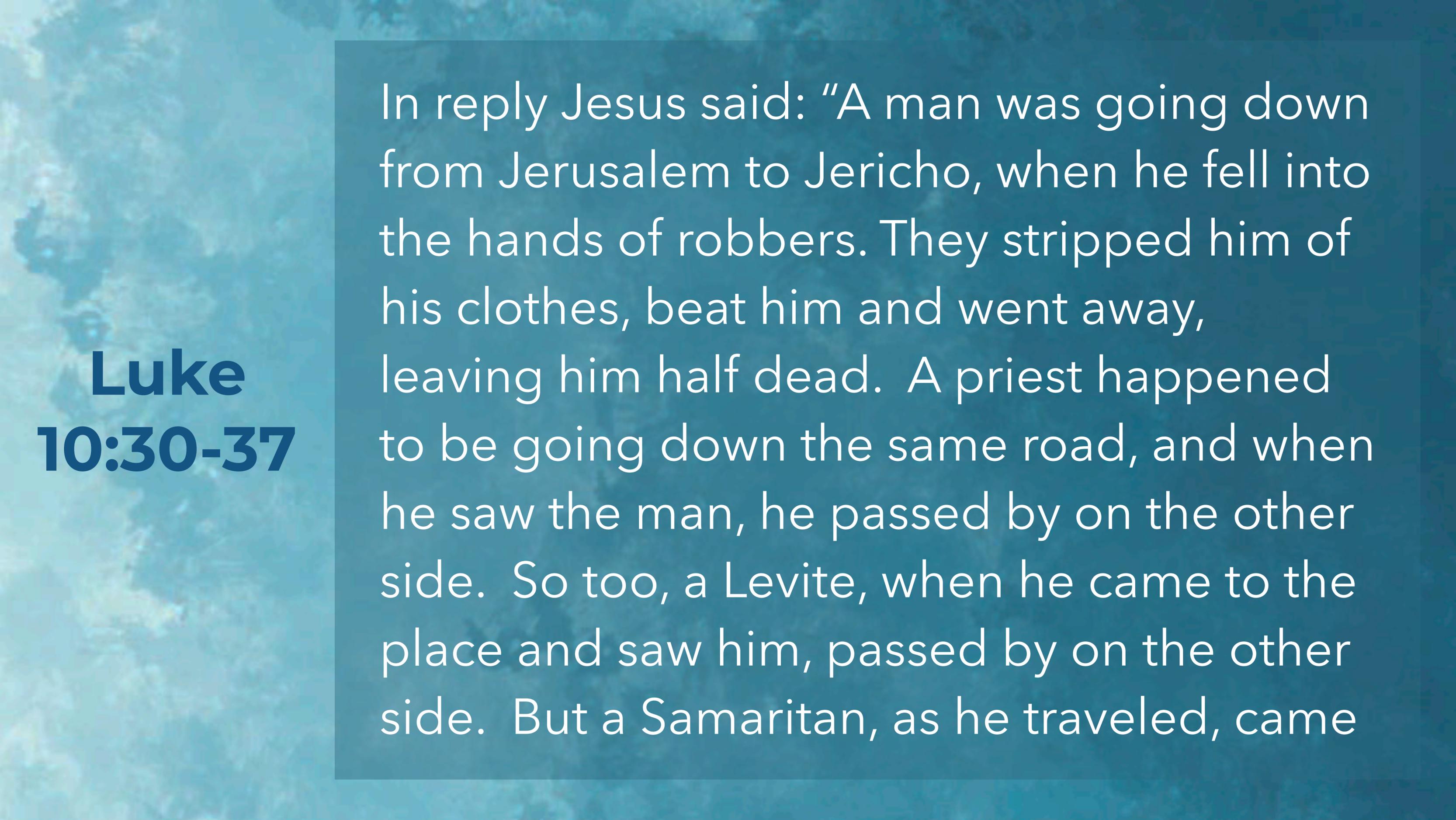
**Luke**  
**10:27-28**

He answered: "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

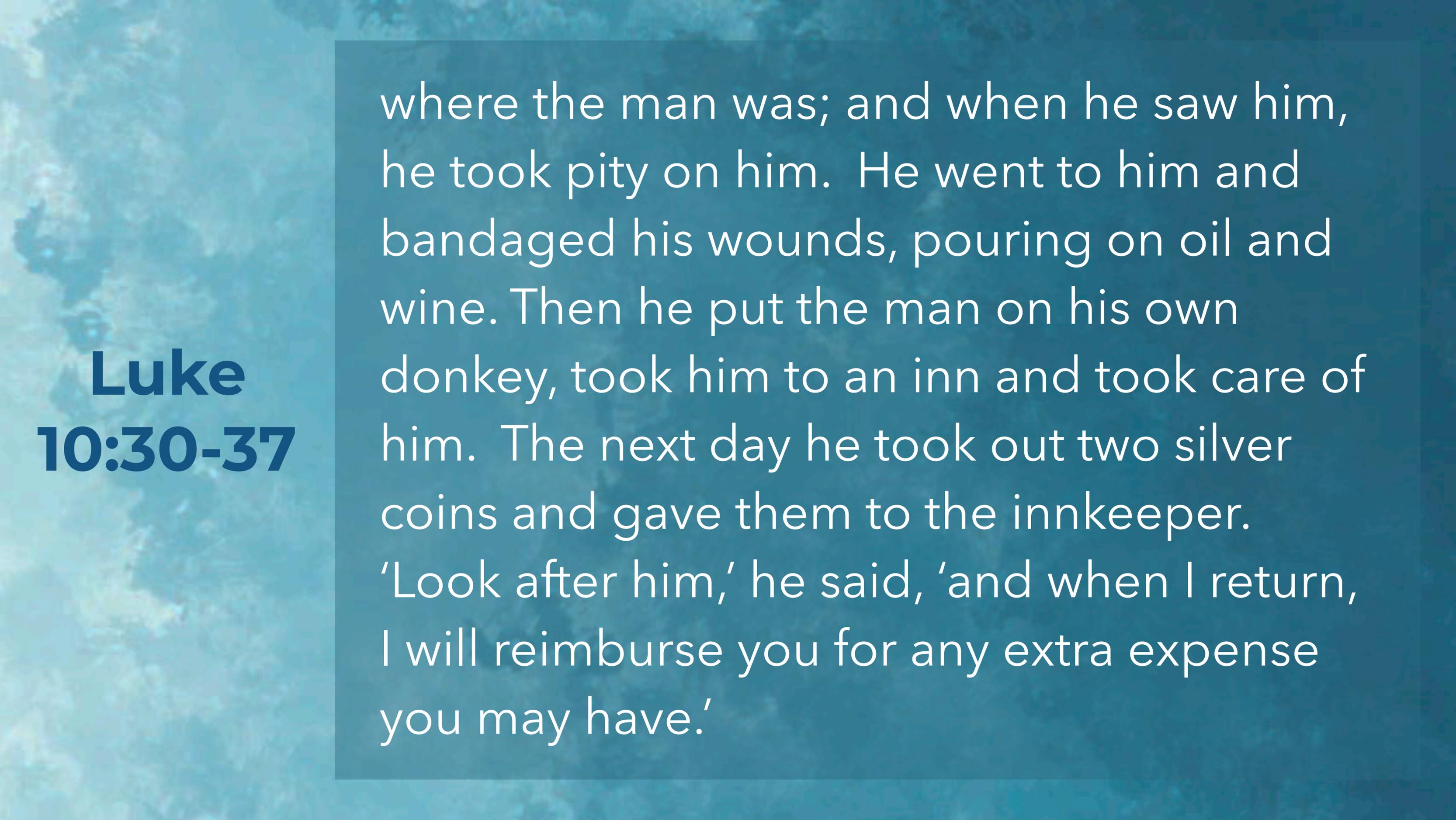
**Luke**  
**10:29**

But he wanted to justify himself,  
so he asked Jesus, "And who is  
my neighbor?"



**Luke**  
**10:30-37**

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came



**Luke**  
**10:30-37**

where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

**Luke**  
**10:30-37**

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”







Cole Haan

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**1 John**  
**4:19**

We love because he first  
loved us.



## **Lyman Stone**

*(Foreign  
Policy)*

This habit of sacrificial care has reappeared throughout history. In 1527, when the bubonic plague hit Wittenberg, Martin Luther refused calls to flee the city and protect himself. Rather, he stayed and ministered to the sick. The refusal to flee cost his daughter Elizabeth her life. But it produced a tract, "Whether Christians Should Flee the Plague," where Luther



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*(Foreign  
Policy)*

provides a clear articulation of the Christian epidemic response: We die at our posts. Christian doctors cannot abandon their hospitals, Christian governors cannot flee their districts, Christian pastors cannot abandon their congregations. The plague does not dissolve our duties: It turns them to crosses, on which we must be prepared to die.