

What must I do to inherit eternal life?: chiasmic parallels in Luke's Travel Narrative

LUKE 10.25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. **"Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"**

[Jesus responds with a question about the torah/commandments]

He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The person affirms their relationship with the torah/commandments

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 given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus pushes the person to a deeper understanding and practice of the torah/commandments

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, 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 while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, **"Go and do likewise."**

LUKE 18.18-23

A certain ruler asked him, "Good **Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"**

[Jesus responds with a question about the torah/commandments]

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.'"

The person affirms their relationship with the torah/commandments

He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth."

Jesus pushes the person to a deeper understanding and practice of the torah/commandments

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. **Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.**" But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich.