

1 The lawyer seems to see eternal life as a reward after death that comes to those who do enough good deeds. According to Jesus, what is eternal life? See John 6:47-48, 54, 67-69; 10:27-28; 17:1-3.

 The lawyer before Jesus uses both the words “do” and “inherit” when he asks Jesus about eternal life. How are those two words incompatible? How does that incompatibility show up in our day? Why do you think people seem to naturally view eternal life as a matter of what we do?

 In what ways are you tempted to allow even a subtle dependence on works into your belief system?

 Eternal life is not something we can earn by doing (Eph.2:8-9). How many ways can you identify that receiving an inheritance parallels the idea of receiving eternal life by grace?

 Discuss the ill effects in the heart and mind that occur when eternal life is viewed as a reward for good works. What good effects of seeing eternal life as an inheritance to be received?

2 By asking Jesus who his neighbor was, the expert in the law was hoping to shrink God’s standards down to a manageable size where it could be cleared by means of his own effort. Can you think of specific ways this can happen with God’s word and ways today?

 Which of those is most convicting to you?

 Through a story about surprising compassion and love, Jesus enlarges our vision of God’s demands. Consider the following quote by John Piper: “Oh, how easy it is to think we are what we ought to be when the emotions are made peripheral. Mere thoughts and mere deeds are manageable by the carnal religious mind. But the emotions—they are the weathervane of the heart. Nothing shows the direction of the deep winds of the soul like the demand for radical, sin-destroying, Christ-exalting joy in God.” How have you seen your love and compassion (rather than your keeping of a standard) a barometer of how your heart?

3 **Jesus' command to go and do likewise is a call to compassion and generosity toward needs around us, but in the story, a priest and a Levite both ignore the man on the road who was left for dead.** They may have had very good reasons for not stopping, but, ultimately none of them matter. What matters is that they didn't stop, because on some level they cared more about themselves than they did about the man who was dying on the side of the road.

 *What are some of the reasons that keep people from acts of compassion and mercy when they come across a need?*

 *The intensely personal nature of this text goes against our world of disconnected and depersonalized care. How can your group pray that you would be able to personally minister the mercy of Christ to someone in the weeks ahead?*

4 **Read Luke 10:38-42.** What do you think Martha's main problem was and what wasn't? How do you know? Compare Luke 8:14,18, Luke 9:57-62, Luke 21:34, Luke 22:24-27

 *Jesus came with a call to follow Him in a life of both undivided love for God and unselfish love for neighbor. "Love God with all your heart soul mind and strength" by "choosing the good portion that won't be taken away" (Luke 10:27, 42) doing everything in connection to the words and presence of Jesus. And, love your neighbor as yourself by going and doing likewise after the example of our ultimate Good Samaritan, Jesus. (Luke 10:27, 37) How did Jesus model both undivided love for His Father and unselfish service to others?*

 *What is the connection between loving God and loving others? 1 John 3:16-18; 4:20-21 and James 2:14-17.*

 *Which side do you find yourself most in need of prayer and growth in? What might growth in compassionate and generous service that is connected to the words and presence of Jesus look like in your life?*

5 **This passage can be applied in endless ways.** What applications came to mind as you have meditated on the text this week and tonight? In what ways were you convicted, challenged, and encouraged to apply God's word?