



“The Two-edged Sword of Christian Ministry” – August 2023 Thoughts to Ponder

Most church-going folks are familiar with Jesus’ *Parable of the Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:25-37); but I suspect few have plumbed its depths to find themselves among its characters.

1. The parable is a response to the question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25)
 - a. Do you believe in eternal life? If so, what do you have to do to earn it?
 - b. Do you: “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”? Explain your answer.

2. Neighbors were easily identifiable when I was a child.
 - a. I lived in a neighborhood; did you? If so, describe yours. If not, what do you think you missed?
 - b. How has your definition of “neighbor” changed over the years?

3. Have you ever become so intent on what you're doing and where you're going that you failed to notice those around you?
 - a. If so, describe the situation and the impact it had on you and those around you. If not, think again!
 - b. "If you miss the people, you miss the point." Do you agree?

4. Jesus' parable features four people: the man who was beaten, the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan.
 - a. Which of the characters in the parable are you striving to emulate? Why?
 - b. Which of the characters must you most closely identify with to inherit eternal life? Why?

