

# “Who is My Neighbor?”

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## Readers Theatre for Christian Worship

### Script

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READER 1: On a certain occasion,

READER 2: an expert in The Law,

READER 1: put Jesus to the test.

READER 2: The lawyers

READER 1: wanted to trick Jesus to see if he knew

Reader2: and understood Scripture.

LAWYER 1: What must I do

LAWYER 2: to receive eternal life?

READER 1: What is written in the Law?

READER 2: What does Moses say?

READER 1: What does Scripture say you must do?

LAWYER 1: Love the Lord God

LAWYER 2: with all your heart,

LAWYER 1: and with all your soul,

LAWYER 2: and with all your strength

LAWYER 1: and with your entire mind,

LAWYER 1, 2: and love your neighbor as yourself.

READER 1: You are correct in your answer.

ALL LAWYERS: Then?

READER 2: Then do this...and you will live.

READER 1: The question from the lawyer,

READER 2: “What must I do to acquire eternal life?”

READER 1: was answered by the lawyer himself

READER 2: when he just answered Jesus’ question,

READER 1: What does Scripture say?"

READER 2: and

READER 1: What do you read in Moses?

READER 4: Here is what you read in Moses.

READER 3: If you want eternal life

READER 4: you must love God,

READER 3: and love your neighbor!

READER 1: Seems simple enough.

READER 2: A straight forward question!

READER 3: A straight forward answer!

READER 1: One would think that,

READER 2: but the lawyer asked,

LAWYER 1: Who is my neighbor?

*(LAWYERS each face a READER.)*

READER 3: Who is your neighbor!

READER 4: You don't know?

*(READERS 3 & 4 drop heads.)*

READER 2: To answer the question,

READER 1: Who is my neighbor?

READER 2: Jesus told a story.

READER 1: In that story

READER 2: the lawyer and the entire world

READER 1: would discover the answer

READER 2: and how to have eternal life.

*(READERS take a step forward.)*

READER 1: A man walking from Jerusalem to Jericho

READER 2: was attacked by robbers.

READER 1: They tore off his clothes.

READER 2: They beat him up.

READER 1: They stole his money.

READER 2: They left him for dead.

READER 1: They went away.

*(READERS 3 & 4 lift their heads and look at one another as they say the following lines.)*

READER 3: Robbed,

READER 4: clothes torn,

READER 3: beaten up,

READER 4: left for dead!

READERS 3 & 4 TOGETHER: What a terrible thing to happen on the Jericho road.

READER 1: There were people

READER 2: traveling on the road,

READER 1: a priest,

READER 2: a Levite,

READER 1: and a Samaritan.

READER 1: The priest,

READER 2: upon seeing the beaten man

READER 1: said to himself,

READER 2: There is a man who has been attacked by robbers, beaten, robbed, and left for dead.

READER 1: But he walked as far as possible

READER 2: from the man on the road.

READER 1: He didn't stop.

*(READERS 3 & 4 look at one another as they say the following lines.)*

READER 3: Why?

READER 4: The man needs help!

READER 3: If a priest won't help the injured man,

READER 4: who will help him?

*(READERS 3 & 4 take full front position.)*

**ALL READERS: on the Jericho road?**

*(READERS 3 & 4 drop heads.)*

READER 2: After a time a Levite

READER 1: traveling on the same road as the priest,

READER 2: came upon the beaten man.

READER 1: Upon seeing the beaten man, he said to himself,

READER 2: There is a man who has been attacked by robbers,

READER 1: beaten up, robbed,

READER 2: and left for dead.

READER 1: But he walked as far as possible

READER 2: from the man on the road.

*(READERS 3 & 4 left their heads and look at one another as they say the following lines.)*

READER 3: He didn't stop

READER 4: Why didn't the Levite stop?

READER 3: He is paid from the tithe!

READER 4: The man needs help.

READER 3: If a Levite won't help the injured man,

READER 4: who will help him?

**ALL READERS: *(Take full front position.)* on the Jericho road**

*(READERS 3 & 4 drop heads)*

READER 2: After a time a Samaritan

READER 1: Traveling on the same road as the priest,

READER 2: came upon the beaten man.

READER 1: Upon seeing the beaten man, said to himself,

READER 2: There is a man who has been attacked by robbers, beaten up, robbed and left for dead.

READER 1: He had pity on the man.

READER 2: So he stopped and helped him.

*(READERS 3 & 4 lift their heads)*

READER 4: Finally, finally,

READER 3: someone stopped and helped him

**ALL READERS: on the Jericho road.**

READER 3: But of all people,

READER 4: a Samaritan!

READER 3: Why didn't the others help?

READER 1: The Samaritan

READER 2: cared for the beaten man by pouring medicine on his wounds and bandaged them.

READER 3: I still want to know

READER 4: why the priest

READER 3: and the Levite

READER 4: didn't stop to help

**ALL READERS: on the Jericho road.**

READER 2: But that was only the beginning

READER 1: of the Samaritan's help.

READER 2: He put the man on his donkey,

READER 1: He took him to an inn

READER 2: and paid for his room.

READER 3: I thought priests and Levites

READER 4: were to help people

READER 3: They only help people

READER 4: Who will help them!

READER 1: To the innkeeper,

READER 2: the Samaritan said,

READER 1: Look after him,

READER 3: Such kindness!

READER 1: When I return...

READER 2: ...I will pay you for the added expenses.

READER 3: Unlike the priest!

READER 4: Unlike the Levite!

READER 3 & 4: Why didn't they help?

READER 1: Jesus told this story

READER 2: a simple story

READER 1: so the lawyer would know

READER 2: what love is,

READER 1: and answer the question,

*(LAWYERS take full front position)*

### **LAWYER 1-2: Who is my neighbor?**

READER 2: Now it was Jesus' turn to ask questions.

READER 1: Which of the three...

READER 3: *(Takes one step forward.)* the priest,

READER 4: *(Takes one step forward.)* or the Levite,

READER 3 & 4: *(Takes one step forward.)* or the Samaritan

READER 1: ...was a neighbor to the robbed and beaten man?

READER 4: *(Takes one step forward.)* The answer is easy,

READER 3: and obvious.

LAWYER 1: The one, the one who,

LAWYER 2: The one who helped the robbed man.

READER 3: *(Looks at one LAWYER.)* Just say,

READER 4: *(Looks at one LAWYER.)* just say the Samaritan man!

READER 2: The lawyer

READER 1: didn't even say the

READER 2: Samaritan's name but only—

LAWYER: 1: The one, the one who,

LAWYER 2: the one who helped the robbed man.

READER 2: The lawyer hated the Samaritan so much

READER 1: that he didn't

READER 2: want to say the word,

READERS **1-2: Samaritan.**

READER 3: Why did he hate the Samaritans?

READER 4: Why does anyone

READER 3: hate another person?

READER 4: Here is one conclusion to the story.

READER 3: Jesus' two questions were answered.

READER 4: What must I do to inherit eternal life?

READER 3: and

READER 4: Who is my neighbor?

READER 3: Now you lawyers,

READER 4: go and do likewise.

READER 3: Go and do likewise!

READER 4: Go,

READER 3: and be like the Samaritan.

READER 4: I don't think you lawyers

READER 3: want to be like the Samaritan!

READER 4: Just help others in need!

READER 1: Jesus also answered the question,

READER 2: "How do you love God?"

READER 1: Now you lawyers,

READER 2: go and do likewise

**ALL READERS: (Cynically.) Go and do likewise.**

READER 4: Go,

READER 3: Be like the Samaritan

READER 4: and just help others in need.

READER 3: I don't think the lawyers

READER 4: will want to be like the Samaritan!

LAWYER 2: How do you love God?

READER 2: By helping those in need.

READER 3: Those in need  
READER 4: are your neighbors.

READER 1: Your neighbor is anyone in need,  
READER 2: whoever  
READER 3: and wherever they are  
READER 4: on or off the Jericho road.

READER 1: By helping those in need.  
READER 4: you are loving God,  
READER 2: and loving your neighbor as yourself.  
READER 3: just as the Samaritan  
READER 1: helped the beaten man,  
READER 3: You need to  
**READERS 1-2: go and do likewise.**

READER 4: *(Pause.)* I wonder if  
READER 3: I wonder if the lawyers  
READER 2: ever went  
READER 1: and did likewise?

*(LAWYERS drop their heads.)*

**ALL READERS: He went away sorrowful**  
READER 4: and probably never,  
READER 3: ever  
READERS 1-2: traveled the Jericho road again!



