
Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

Scripture Readings

February 21, 2021

*The First Sunday
in Lent*

..... **About the text**

SOME THINGS HAVE TO just get done. Day in, day out: life gets pretty miserable, pretty quickly, if our household routines slip. We even have a phrase for it: the “tasks of everyday living.”

Everyday routines get turned on their heads when company comes. A meal for four is practically a non-event. A meal for forty needs someone staying on top of it, to avoid it becoming memorable in the wrong way.

Life, disrupted: it’s the underlying theme of both these stories. One disruption was the result of a mugging, the other of an unexpected dinner party.

How we handle disruption and change, how we accept help, are Jesus’ concern. And, our blessing in these changing times.



Luke 10:25-42

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"²⁷ 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."²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰ 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.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.³⁴ 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.³⁵ 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.'³⁶ Which of these

25 Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

26 He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

27 He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

28 "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

29 Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

30 Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead.³¹ Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side.³² Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

33 "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him.

³⁴ He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable.³⁵ In the morning he took out two silver coins

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three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Message

and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back."

³⁶ "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

³⁷ "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

³⁸ As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. ³⁹ She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand."

⁴¹ The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. ⁴² One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."

Psalm 15

A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; · ³ who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; · ⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised, · but who honor those who fear the LORD; · who stand by their oath even to their hurt; · ⁵ who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

A DAVID PSALM

1 GOD, who gets invited to dinner at your place? · How do we get on your guest list?

2 “Walk straight, act right, tell the truth.

3 “Don’t hurt your friend, don’t blame your neighbor; · ⁴ despise the despicable.

“Keep your word even when it costs you, · ⁵ make an honest living, never take a bribe.

“You’ll never get blacklisted if you live like this.”

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God’s work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.