



## *Who Is My Neighbor?*

“Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The man who spoke to Jesus was an expert in religious law. He was testing him, trying to make him fall.

“What is written in the law?” said Jesus. “What do you read?”

This person cited the law. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

“I already have it!” he thought. For years, people have argued about what the law means by using the word “neighbor.” Some teachers would tell people to love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

He wanted to do what he thought was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my

neighbor?”

The Lord was ready for this question and answered with a story:

“A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who stripped him, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.”

The expert knew that the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was dangerous. Thieves lived in the hills near the road and often attacked people.

Jesus continued, “It happened that a priest came down the road, and seeing the beaten man, passed on by. Likewise a Levite, upon seeing the man, passed by.”

The expert continued to listen. He knew why the priest and the Levite had not stopped. The man could die while they were