Session 1:
Introduction/The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Context
Does our Lord teach justification by grace through faith? We all immediately answer, “Yes, of course.” But, where does He teach it? And how? We may find ourselves uncomfortably ill-prepared to answer those two questions. In this study, we’re going to look at how Jesus used one of His parables to teach about justification.

Introduction

1. What has happened and is happening in Luke’s account of our Lord’s life and ministry in chapters 1–10 of his Gospel?

2. Read together Luke 18:9–14, another parable that has to do with justification. What does “justified” mean in verse 14? How might verse 9 provide help in understanding verse 14?

4. What difference will it make for our reading of Luke 10:25–29 if we assume that the lawyer was present to hear Jesus’ words in verses 21–22 or even 21–24?

6. When you find yourself thinking about your salvation, which of the questions above are you most likely to ask? Do you think in terms of a standard you need to meet, of a minimum entrance requirement? Do you simply wonder what can be done?


5. When studying a parable, it is always important to notice what situation or question serves as the occasion for the parable. As we read verses 25–29 we see that several questions are raised. Note them below.

Question 1: ____________________________

Question 2: ____________________________

Question 3: ____________________________

Question 4: ____________________________

7. What question should the lawyer have asked?

8. Why do you think the lawyer felt a need to “justify himself”?

Looking Ahead

In our next session, we will carefully read through the parable together, but this is most likely a very familiar parable to most of us. After our discussion in this session, where do you think these “leading questions” are leading us? What would you say the parable is about? What is its message for us?