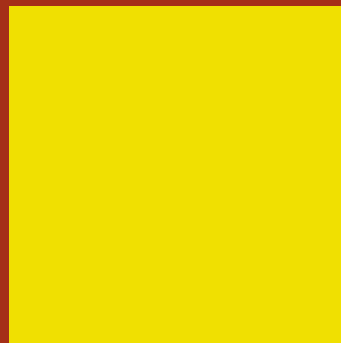


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ENCOUNTER WITH THE OTHER:  
DEALING WITH DIVERSITY

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## MODULE ONE

# DEALING WITH DIVERSITY

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

**'JESUS AND THE  
MAN ATTACKED BY  
ROBBERS'  
(LUKE 10:25 -  
37):VIDEO CLIP**

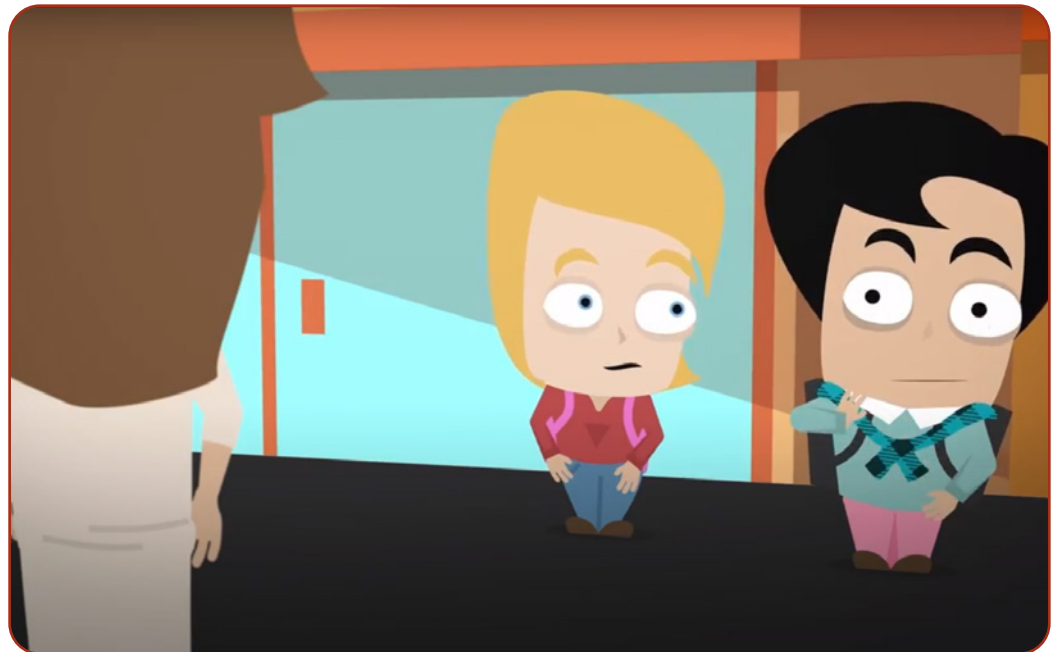


Figure 1.1  
The Video Clip

*The image of the video shows David and Sarah walking down the street. They just bought a new game. The day before, Sarah got very angry about the anti-racism movement. When they come across an anti-racism poster along the way, she gets angry again and pulls it off the wall. Out of nowhere, a mysterious figure appears behind them. He points them to a strange door. When they reach the door, the man has suddenly disappeared again. On the door there is a mysterious text: 'Looking for answers? Those who go through this door are surprised.' As they step through the door, they learn a lesson about a man who was ambushed by robbers.*

## 1.2 'JESUS AND THE MAN ATTACKED BY ROBBERS

The society we live in is complex. It consists of many different parts: countries, families, sports clubs, political movements and so on. This complex world is also full of dishonesty. As a result, many people are not happy with how there are treated in this world. There have been people and groups over the past century who have fought for equality and justice in society.

An example of this struggle is the protests that have occurred around the world in the last decade against racism and discrimination. Another example is the #metoo movement that fights against sexually abusive behavior. What these protests and movements have in common is that they fight against unequal treatment based on irrelevant differences between people. These differences, such as skin color, gender and origin, are part of what makes people unique and special. At the same time, as humans, we often differentiate between people based on these differences. This was happening also back in Jesus's day. This lesson deals with the Biblical story about a man who was attacked by robbers. Jesus tells this parable while talking to a spiritual leader in response to the question, "*Who is my neighbor?*".

### Exercise 1

Read the parable of the man who was attacked by robbers below. You may already know this story. Write below what you think Jesus wants to teach with it.



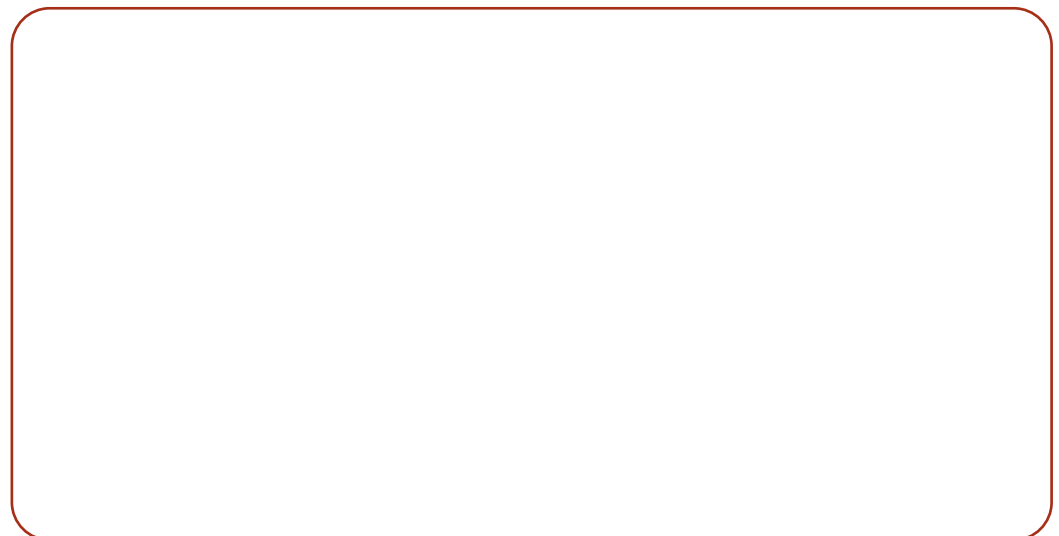
Figure 1.2  
Source: Peakpx

## Luke 10: 25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "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.' "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

### Exercise 2

The term 'neighbor' occurs several times in the Bible. How would you define this concept?



### Exercise 3

Look at the images below. For each picture, give two words properly describing the person in it. Or describe the situation you observe in a few words.



1.



2.



3.



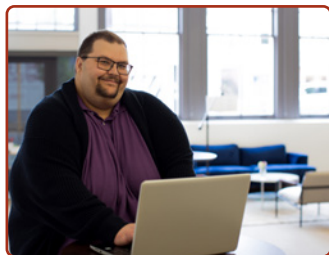
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



11.



9.



10.

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## 1.3 THE WORLD OF THE BIBLE


The world Jesus lived in was, just as our world, very diverse. There were many countries, peoples and cities, each with their own customs, languages and traditions. At the time of Jesus, there were two groups living close together in present-day Israel: the **Jews** and the **Samaritans**. These two groups shared a complicated history that was often filled with tension or even violence.



Figure 1.3  
Map of Samaria  
and Judea in the  
1st century AD.

 **Jew** is a term used to describe the inhabitants of Judea and the areas surrounding it since the exile (6th century BC). The term also came to be used for a religious group, who saw themselves as a continuation of the people of God. Jerusalem was an important place for the Jews because the temple was located there.

 **Samaritans** were a people who lived in the area of Samaria. They also saw themselves as a continuation of the people of God but were different from the Jews in a few key ways. For them, it was not Jerusalem but Mount Gerizim that was the most important place of worship. In addition, they only recognized the first five books of the Jewish Bible (with some changes to them). On the map you can see where Judea and Samaria were.

 Besides these two groups, people in the New Testament are classified into many other **cultural** and **ethnic groups**. The most well-known peoples were the **Romans** and **Greeks**. A common term is '**gentile**'. Jews used this umbrella term to describe all non-Jews.

### Exercise 4

Which statements are incorrect:

- a. Jesus was a Jew who lived 2000 years ago.
- b. Jews and Samaritans got along well.
- c. Jews and Samaritans both claimed to be the people of God.
- d. Gentile is a term referring to the enemies of the Jews.
- e. Jesus spoke only to people of his own folk.



Figure 1.4  
Source: ©jeffjacobs1990 /  
Pixabay

# 1.4 THE WORLD OF THE STORY

The Bible contains several books that describe the life of Jesus. We call these books the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each **Gospel** gives a testimony to the life of Jesus and takes its own perspective. In this lesson we are going to look at an event described in Luke's Gospel.



Did you know '*gospel*' comes from the Greek word 'euangelion'? This means 'good news' and refers to the good message Jesus Christ brought.

## 1.4.1 JESUS AND THE EXPERT IN THE LAW

To better understand the parable of the man who was attacked by robbers, we also need to know why Jesus told this story. In the preceding verses, an **expert in the law** asks Jesus a question. The text says that this expert in the law wanted to test Jesus. He asks Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. This question fits in well within the Jewish framework of belief in that it emphasizes what to do, not what to know or believe. The expert in the law may have tried to get Jesus in trouble with the question. With this question, he may have hoped that Jesus would give a 'wrong' answer to the question and possibly offend the religious leaders.



At the time, '*expert in the law*' referred to a person who was trained in Jewish religious rules and laws.



The **Jewish law** is a collection of rules describing how a person should live together with other people and with God. In the classical counting this law consisted of 613 rules: 248 commandments and 365 prohibitions.

### Exercise 5

After hearing the question of the expert in the law, what does Jesus do?

- Jesus quotes a text from the Old Testament.
- Jesus himself asks the expert in the law a question.
- Jesus gives an answer that has nothing to do with the question.
- Jesus does not respond to the expert in the law.
- Jesus gives a clear answer to the expert in the law.



## Exercise 6

What must the expert in the law do to receive eternal life?

- a. To Love God, exalt his neighbor, humble himself and follow Jesus.
- b. To love God with all his life and give away he his possessions to the poor.
- c. To love God with all his heart, strength and mind and his neighbor as himself.
- d. To love God, to treat all people the same and to always be faithful to God.

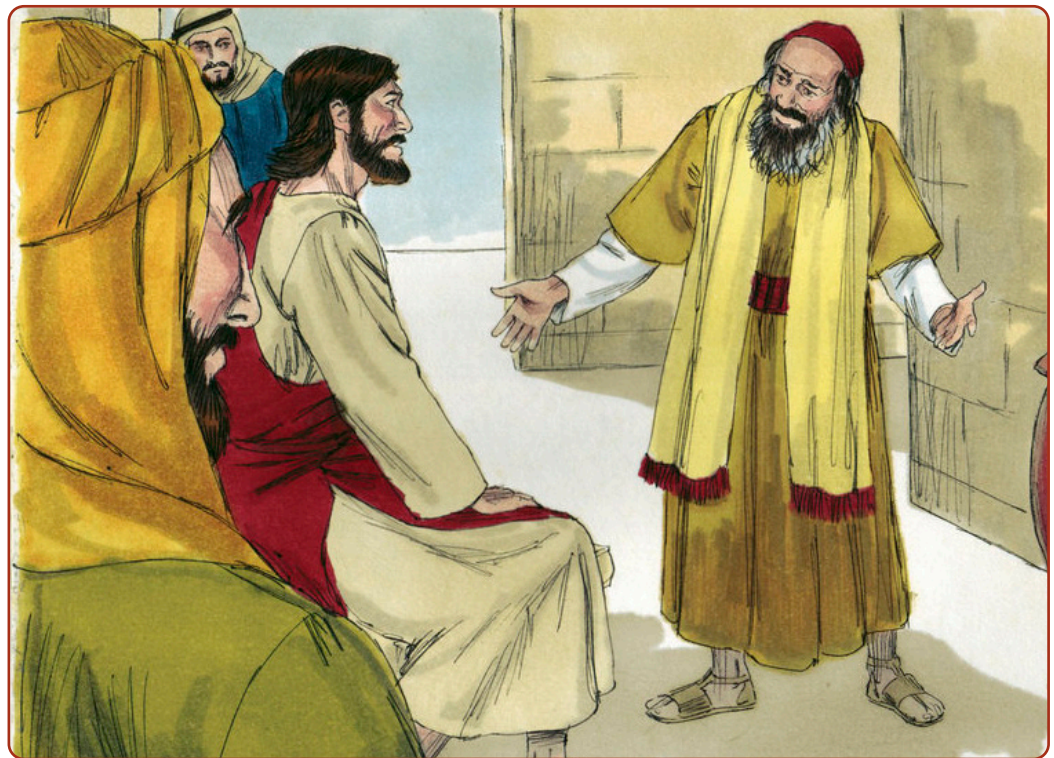


Figure 1.5  
Jesus and the expert in  
the law  
Source: Jim Padgett,  
courtesy of Sweet  
Publishing, Ft. Worth,  
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Media\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gospel_of_Luke_Chapter_10-1_(Bible_Illustrations_by_Sweet_Media).jpg)

Instead of answering the man’s question, Jesus lets him think for himself by asking him a question back. He must answer his own question on the basis of Jewish law. The expert in the law answers by quoting two texts. He quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 where it says, “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” The man also quotes Leviticus 19, verse 18: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The first text is part of the **Sh’ma Israel**, a prayer the Jews at that time would say twice a day. The second text is from a section of the Bible that deals with how the Israelites should treat each other. Jesus confirms the correctness of the answer given by the expert in the law. He urges the man to live out this prayer, for then he will have eternal life. The expert in the law tried to trap Jesus, but Jesus wouldn’t allow himself to be tricked. Instead, he invites the expert in the law to formulate an answer to the question himself.

### 1.4.2 THE PARABLE

After Jesus made it clear to the expert in the law what to do to get eternal life, the man asks Jesus a second question. He asks him who exactly his neighbor is. The text says that he wanted to justify himself. This meant the expert in the law tried to portray himself as a better expert in and adherent of the law. Perhaps he hoped Jesus would allow him to answer again. But Jesus answers the question with a **parable**.




A **parable** is a short story in which a lesson is hidden. Jesus often used parables to illustrate a principle of the Kingdom of God. It is up to the listener to discover the meaning of the parable.

#### Exercise 7

Several characters appear in the parable. Indicate for each of the characters below their role in the story. Use the roles of hero, enemy, victim and helper.

Robbers	
Robbed man	
Priest and Levite	
Samaritan	
Innkeeper	

 **Priests** worked in the temple in Jerusalem. They conducted the sacrifices and performed other rituals central to Judaism at the time. All the priests were from the Levite tribe, one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

To understand what the parable means, we need to look at the story from two different viewpoints: from that of the Samaritan and that of the man who was attacked by robbers. Both perspectives help us understand what Jesus wanted to say with the parable.

The **Samaritan** and the man who was attacked by robbers are strangers to each other. While travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho, the Samaritan found a wounded man along the road. This road is in the area of Judea, an area where the Samaritans did not live. Thus, the Samaritan knew that the wounded person was most likely a Jew. Despite the political and religious tensions between the Jewish and Samaritan people, he did not abandon the man but helped him. Not only does the Samaritan stop for the man on the side of the road, but he interrupts his own journey to take the man to an inn. He stays with him for a day at the inn and even pays for further care of the man.

The **man who was attacked by robbers** had been lying injured along the road for some time. He was passed twice by individuals from his own people. First a **priest** passed him on the other side of the road and then a **Levite** did the same. These two highly respected people from his own people just let him lie. They probably thought he might be dead and so they didn't want to touch him. That would make them unclean and unfit for temple work. Unexpectedly, someone comes to his aid: a Samaritan. It is not someone who follows the law 'correctly' who helps him, but someone who does not even belong to his own people.




Figure 1.6  
Painting *The Good Samaritan* by Joost Cornelisz, 1617.  
Source: (Amsterdam) via Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Good\\_Samaritan\\_by\\_Joost\\_Cornelisz\\_Droochsloot\\_Centraal\\_Museum\\_2529.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Good_Samaritan_by_Joost_Cornelisz_Droochsloot_Centraal_Museum_2529.jpg).

Jesus asks the expert in the law who was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers - a Jew. With this question he made the expert in the law think deeply. After all, the text on brotherly love, quoted by the expert in the law himself, was in the time of Jesus often limited to only mean fellow Jews and other followers of the law. Samaritans were certainly not part of the group of people to love. Jesus' question leads to the radical conclusion that the man did not find a neighbor among his own people, but in the stranger from a despised group. Conversely, it also teaches you *how to be a neighbor* to someone you despise: **by offering help to those in need**. In other words, contempt can give way to surprise and respect.

### Exercise 8

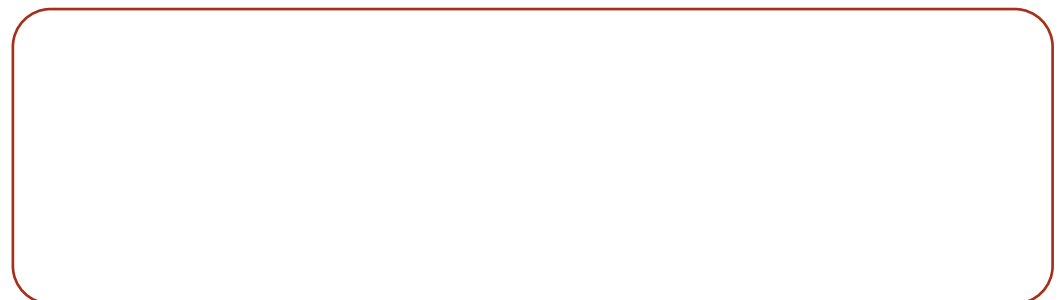
At the end, Jesus says to the expert in the law: *"Go and do likewise."* What exactly does Jesus tell the man to do? What does this lesson mean to you?



### Exercise 9

Go back to exercise 2. Look at the pictures again and give your gut answer to the following questions:

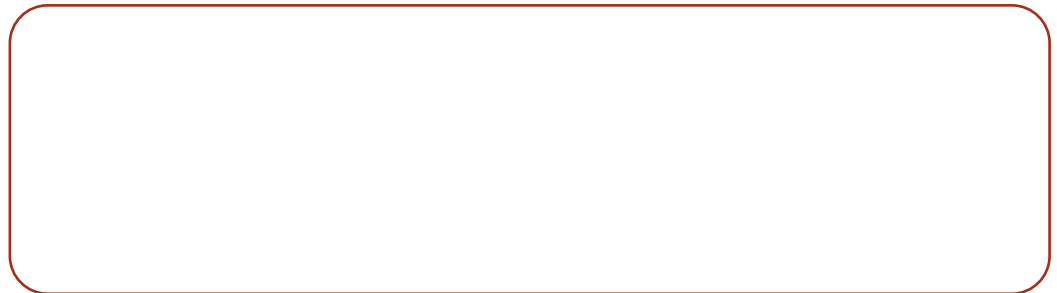
1. Which of these people has a big house?
2. Which of these people has rich parents?
3. Which of these people is happily married?
4. Which of these people did not finish high school?
5. Who of these people has ever been expelled from school?
6. Which of these people has stolen money from his boss?
7. Which of these people has been in prison?
8. Which of these people could have committed murder?



Of course, you cannot actually answer any of the questions in Exercise 9. After all, you cannot deduce the answer from the photos. When we try to do this, we **subconsciously differentiate** between people based on their *appearance*. We make such a distinction very quickly and usually unconsciously. The story of Jesus wants to ask us what consequences may arise from this distinction. The parable showed that the distinction between Samaritans and Jews did not mean that the Samaritan would not be willing to help. Jesus teaches that the differences we observe between people should not mean that we interact in different ways just because of these differences. Charity should not be limited to people who belong to your own group but should also extend to those **outside** of it.

### **Exercise 10**

Go back to your definition of neighbor (Exercise 2). Compare your definition with the lesson Jesus gave to the expert in the law.



## 1.5 GLOSSARY

In this glossary, you will find more information and an explanation of certain terms.

### **Gentile**

“Gentile” was an umbrella term used by the Jews to describe all non-Jews.

### **Gospel**

The writings of the New Testament in the Bible begin by narrating about the life of Jesus, about his words and deeds. This is reflected in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These Gospels are written based on faith and serve to demonstrate faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

‘Gospel’ comes from old English ‘godspel’, which is based on the Latin translation of the Greek word ‘euangelion’. This means ‘good news’ and refers to the good message brought by Jesus Christ.

### **Greeks**

In the time of Jesus and the early church, “Greeks” referred to the inhabitants of Greece. Greece at that time was part of the Roman Empire. The culture of the Greeks spread throughout the Mediterranean Sea in the centuries before the birth of Jesus.

### **Jerusalem**

In the time of Jesus, Jerusalem was the capital of Palestine. Jerusalem had a temple and many synagogues where Jews came to worship and pray. Today, Jerusalem is still an important city for Jews around the world. Jerusalem is also an important city for Christians and Muslims. In Jerusalem, Jesus was condemned, crucified and buried. Christians also believe he was resurrected here. The apostles first began to tell the stories of Jesus in Jerusalem. According to the Islamic tradition, the Prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven from Jerusalem.

### **Jews**

The Jews are a people who believe in one God and had a temple in Jerusalem. Today the Jews live all over the world.

### **Judea**

Judea was at the time of the Jesus and his apostles a region south of Samaria. The city of Jerusalem was located in this region.

### **Parable**

A parable is a short story in which a lesson is hidden. Jesus often used parables to illustrate a principle of the Kingdom of God. It is up to the listener to discover the meaning of the parable.

### **Romans**

The Romans were a people who originally lived in Italy, mainly in Rome. Later when the Romans expanded their empire it also became a designation for persons who were citizens of the Roman Empire. At the time of Jesus’ life and of the apostles, the Romans ruled the area where Jesus lived.

## Samaria

In the first century, Samaria was both a city and a region north of Judea. This is the region where the people of the Samaritans got their name from.

## Samaritan

Samaritans were a people who lived in the area of Samaria and were different from the Jews in a number of ways. The Jews considered them unclean and their worship in Shechem illegitimate.

## Sh'ma Yisrael

The Shema Israel is a prayer that is recited twice a day by observant Jews and serves as a centerpiece of the morning and evening Jewish prayer services. The text of the prayer comes from Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 11:13–21, and Numbers 15:37–41.

## Temple of Jerusalem

When Jesus was alive, the temple of Jerusalem was the heart of Judaism: all devout Jews came here to pray and sacrifice. Only Jews were allowed to enter the temple. Jesus also came to Jerusalem regularly. The temple used to be Jerusalem's most important building.



Figure 2.6  
Source: PxFuel

# 1.6 TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

## 1 EXT/INT CAR

Sarah and her dad are driving in a car. Sarah wears a shirt with a logo on it.

*Radio: Protests inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement are still impacting society all over the World. In New York hundreds of protesters went on the street again. In our country people are protesting today against discrimination and racism....*

Dad turns down the radio and the voice on the radio fades away.

*Dad: So, Sarah are you ready for the tournament?*

*Sarah: Yeah, we are definitely going to win.*

*Dad: I hope you will*

Father has to slow down because a road has been blocked due to a protest.

*Dad: Oh, I think we have to drive around this.*

*Sarah: oh, god we are going to be late! I don't want to miss the game!*

## 2 INT LIVING ROOM

Sarah stomps angrily into the living room.

*Sarah (angry): It is so unfair, that stupid protest made us late and now our team lost because I wasn't there. These protesters should really stop. All lives matter, yeah we get it.*

*Dad: Sarah calm down. I know you are upset but think about what you are saying...*

*Sarah: Well I mean what I said. It is unfair that I could not play because of them.*

Sarah walks out of the room.

## 3 INT

Sarah sits in front of a computer screen.

*Computer voice: So-called anti-racist groups are themselves racist and are out to destroy our European society. They are creating problems that don't exist. We as a country treat all foreigners very well and they don't have anything to complain about. This is a threat to our way of living and they should be stopped.*

Pop-up appears on the screen: "Anti-racism" protest escalates.

*Sarah mumbles to herself: Well, see there is the evidence. These groups are crazy.*

## 4 EXT SCHOOLYARD DAY

David and Sarah are walking down the schoolyard.

*David: Pff what a boring day again. I really need something fun.*

*Sarah: Yeah we do. Well, Let's go to the mall. I am going to buy that new game. We could try that later.*

*David: Sure. Hopefully, that will cheer us up.*

## 5 EXT STREET DAY

David and Sarah walk out of the game store with a new 'iChrist adventures' game. Then they see a poster hanging on a tree. Sarah walks towards it.

*Sarah: well will you look at this. They are now even polluting our trees...*

David and Sarah look at a poster hung on a wall. The Poster Reads Stop Racism in this country now. A man is approaching them in the background.

*Sarah (angrily): And it is such a garbage... Anti-Racism poster. Like they have so much to complain about...*

*David: Calm Down Sarah, it just a poster...*

While speaking Sarah tears the poster down from the wall.

*Sarah: These nasty people should stop. If one of them gets hit by a bus I will not help them. They always complain.*

*David: Uhm what?! I never expected you to say that. I thought Jesus said we should love our neighbours as ourselves. Come on that should include these activists, right?*

*Sarah: No. Jesus only thought that we should love those that will help us. Like in the story of the Samaritan: he is a stranger, but Jesus praises him because he helps a Jew.*

*Stranger: Mmh, is that what Jesus meant by the story?*

*David: Wow... Hello, what do you mean?*



*Stranger: Well, I heard you two talking,... and uhm... well.. I think maybe you should go and check whether she is right. See the door there? If you go through it, you may be surprised by what you discover.*

Stranger points with his finger at a door down the street. Sarah and David turn their head to the door. After the man is finished talking, Sarah and David turn around again. The man is gone.

*David: What? Uhm, where is he? Weird. Should we go and check the door?*

*Sarah and David walk to the door.*

## **6 INT INN ANCIENT ISRAEL DAY**

Sarah and David walk into an old Inn (1st century Israel). David and Sarah look surprised around them.

*Sarah: Where the hell are we? This doesn't look like any building from our town.*

*David: Yeah*

Sarah and David are still looking around. They notice a man gesturing them to come to him. The man has a bandage over his head and his arm is in a bandage too. They go to the man.

*Stranger: Hey, you two seem a bit lost. Join me at my table.*

David and Sarah join the man at the table.

*Stranger: Do you know who I am?*

*Sarah: No, we don't. We do not even know where or when we are.*

*Stranger: Well, I think you may well know me. Two weeks ago, I was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. A nice walk as I often have done. I was thinking of what to do that evening, when out of blue a band of robbers appeared on the road. They robbed me of everything I had. They even beat me up really hard. I was laying on the ground and could do a single think..*

*David: What!! That is terrible. Did someone call the police?*

*Stranger: Police? Uhm don't know what that is. Well, I was just laying there, and a priest walked by. I know he saw me, but instead of helping me he passed by on the other side the road. Later I heard footsteps again and a Levite was approaching me. I swear*

*that he also saw me and he immediately went to the other side of the road. I think I laid there for another 30 minutes until a Samaritan with a donkey neared me. He bandaged me and put me on his donkey and brought me to this inn. He paid for all the expenses for me to recover.*

*Sarah: Wow, I think I do know this story already. But this cannot be real. We were just talking about it.*

*Stranger: What were you saying?*

*David: Sarah said that you should only love the Samaritan as a neighbour because he helped you. But I do not think she understood the story correctly.*

*Stranger: Really? Well, let me ask you this. What do you think I would have done if I was walking down this road and I would find a man on the ground who looked like a Samaritan?*

*Sarah: Mmh help him of course.*

*Stranger: No, I probably would have walked past him just as the priest and the Levite did.*

*David: Why?*

*Stranger: Because I didn't trust any Samaritan. Why would I help them? They are ruining everything we stand for and believe in.*

*David: But your own people did not help you, and the Samaritan did!*

*Stranger: Yeah, you are right. I have been thinking about that constantly for two weeks. While my countrymen ignored me, he took care of me. How can I then speak so badly about Samaritans?*

Stranger looks at the setting sun. David and Sarah look perplexed. The stranger starts to get up.

*Stranger: Oh, it is getting late. I think we must go.*

David and Sarah also stand up. They walk to the door and step through it.

## **7 EXT STREET DAY**

David and Sarah step on to the street. The stranger is gone.

*David: That was really weird. What do you think he meant?*

*Sarah: Well, I think he wanted me to rethink the story.*

*What he said is precisely the way I am thinking about the anti-racist movement. I keep saying that they are ruining our country, similar to how he thought about the Samaritan. But in the end, it seemed he was quite mistaken about the Samaritan.*

*David: Yeah you might be right on that one*

*Sarah: I need to talk to my dad about it. Let us go to my house.*

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### Sources of the images:

1.1 Map of Palestine is an adapted version of

- [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_century\\_ludaea\\_province.gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_century_ludaea_province.gif)
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  - o <https://www.flickr.com/photos/archer10/33761760593>

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