**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 16 – December 14, 2025**

“I Didn’t Know (What God Wanted).”

**Key Verse(s):** Luke 10:27-29 “And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

There was a certain lawyer who stood up and questioned Jesus, not because he lacked knowledge, but because he sought to justify himself. He asked the Lord what he must do to inherit eternal life, and Jesus turned the question back to him, allowing the man to recite the great commandment to love God and to love his neighbour as himself. Confident in his understanding of the Law, the lawyer affirmed that this was something he already knew. Yet rather than resting in the Lord’s approval, he pressed further, asking, “And who is my neighbour?” In doing so, he revealed the excuse he was clinging to - that he did not fully know what God truly wanted of him. The Lord responded not with another command, but with a parable that revealed the heart of God. Through the actions of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan, Jesus showed the obvious answer to the lawyer’s question. Even more so, He exposed the excuse of ignorance as invalid and unacceptable to the Lord. In practice, the lawyer should have understood who his neighbor was, but he was willfully ignorant with the intent of avoiding responsibility to the command that the Lord had given.



**Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* The authority of the Word of God can’t be avoided/denied.
* God gives everything needed to do what He commands us.
* The Lord had obviously put Him there for a clear purpose.
* The priest made no effort to see if he could help out.
* Levite was only willing to look. He was likely scared to act.
* The lawyer thought he could escape on a technicality.
* The lawyer believed it wasn’t his fault things weren’t specific.
* The priest didn’t know that the event was more than chance.
* The priest did nothing because he didn’t know the situation.
* The Levite did nothing because he didn’t know what to do.

**1. Ignorance doesn’t remove our responsibility, guilt, or consequences. (Proverbs 24:12)**

**Effects of the Excuse**

**Luke 12:48** - “But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

**2. Ignorance often leads to a further rejection of knowledge. (Willful ignorance)**

**Hosea 4:6** - “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” **(John 9:41)**

**3. Ignorance causes the most dangerous type of zeal - one not anchored in knowledge.**

**Romans 10:2** “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”

**4. Claiming ignorance as a believer might often be deception that becomes repetitive.**

**1 John 1:6** - “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 24:12 - “If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?”

**Reflective Questions:**

* Am I avoiding knowledge because I don’t want to have to act upon that information?
* Am I delaying obedience in an area right now by wrongly claiming a lack of knowledge?

**Commitment:**

* I will seek truth and knowledge from the Bible.
* I will not try to justify my actions through the guise of ignorance or naivety.

Who do you think the lawyer saw as his neighbor before Christ’s answer?

What was the most likely reason that the priest did not even bother to stop?

What does the Samaritan man reveal to us, as it relates to this excuse?

What did the lawyer already know before he asked the Lord his question?

Why did the Levite look upon the man and still choose to leave him there?