The Good Samaritan, Vincent van Gogh, 1890

The Parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10:25-37]

Note: What follows is the Jesus Seminar scholar's color coding as to the likelihood the historical Jesus uttered these words: "Yep, quite likely Jesus" – "Possibly, sure sounds like him" – "Probably subsequently attributed to Jesus in light of the early believers experience" – and, Nope / most likely a later theological development in the gospel tradition.

On one occasion, a legal expert stood up to put him to the test with a question: "Teacher, what do I have to do to inherit eternal life?"

He said to him, **"How do you read what is written in the Law?"**

And he answered, "You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your energy, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, **"You have given the correct answer; do this and you will have life."**

But with a view of justifying himself, he said to Jesus, "But who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, **"There was a man going from Jerusalem to down to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and went off leaving him half dead. Now by coincidence a priest was going down that road; when he caught sight of him, he went out of his way to avoid him. In the same way, when a Levite came to the place, he took one look at him and crossed the road to avoid him. But this Samaritan who was travelling that way came to where he as and was moved to pity at the sight of him. He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring olive and wine on them. He hoisted him onto his own animal, brought him to an inn, and looked after him. The next day he took out two silver coins, which he gave to the innkeeper, and said, "Look after him, and on my way back I'll reimburse you for any extra expense you have had. Which of these three, in your opinion, acted like a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"**

He said, "The one who showed him compassion."

Jesus said to him, **"Then go and do the same yourself."**