

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? | LUKE 10:25-37

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

Fred Rogers

THE QUESTION — LUKE 10:25-29

²⁵ And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." ²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

THE QUESTION

- Jesus answers the question with a question:
 - “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”
 - In other words, what is the “bottom line?”
- The lawyer responds:
 - “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.”
- Jesus acknowledges this as the correct answer
 - He does not mean this is the way to salvation (see Rm. 3:19-28)



ROMANS 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks... so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.** But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested... even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe... Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**

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- Jesus acknowledges this as the correct answer
 - He does not mean this is the way to salvation (see Rm. 3:19-28)
 - However, if one did this, one would fulfill all of the law’s requirements
 - See also Mt. 22:35-40; Mk. 12:28-34; and Rm. 13:8-10

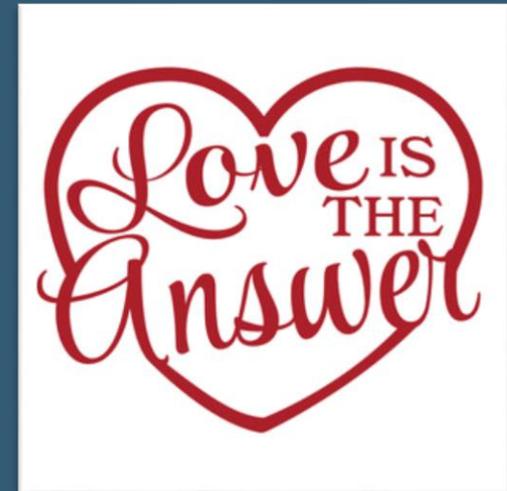


ROMANS 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for **he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law**. For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law**.

LOVE IS GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

- But if we cannot keep the law, why bother?
- It is true that the law cannot save us
- It is true that, in the flesh, we cannot keep God's law
- But who said we cannot keep the law?



GALATIANS 5:14-18, 22-23

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

THE QUESTION

- The lawyer tries to justify himself
 - “And who *is* my neighbor?”
 - This was not a legitimate request for clarification
- As he often does, Jesus responds by telling a story...

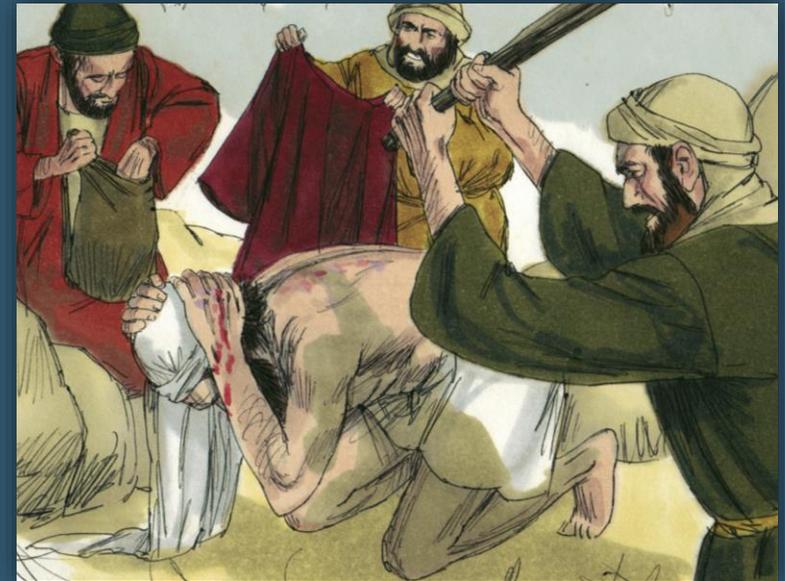


THE ANSWER — LUKE 10:30-35

³⁰ Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹ And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,³⁴ and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’”

LUKE 10:30-35 — OBSERVATIONS 1

- The “man” *might* be a Jew, with which the lawyer can identify
- The man is robbed and beaten almost to death
- The priest and Levite do not stop to help
- Only the **Samaritan** stops to help
 - Jesus **chose** the Samaritan for this role
 - The significance of this cannot be overstated
 - The Jews did not associate with Samaritans



THE SAMARITANS

2 Kings 17:24-29 The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Kuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns. **When they first lived there, they did not worship the LORD...** So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the LORD. Nevertheless, **each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled,** and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places.

Ezra 4:1-3 When **the enemies of Judah and Benjamin** heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, "Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here." But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, "**You have no part with us in building a temple to our God.** We alone will build it for the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us."

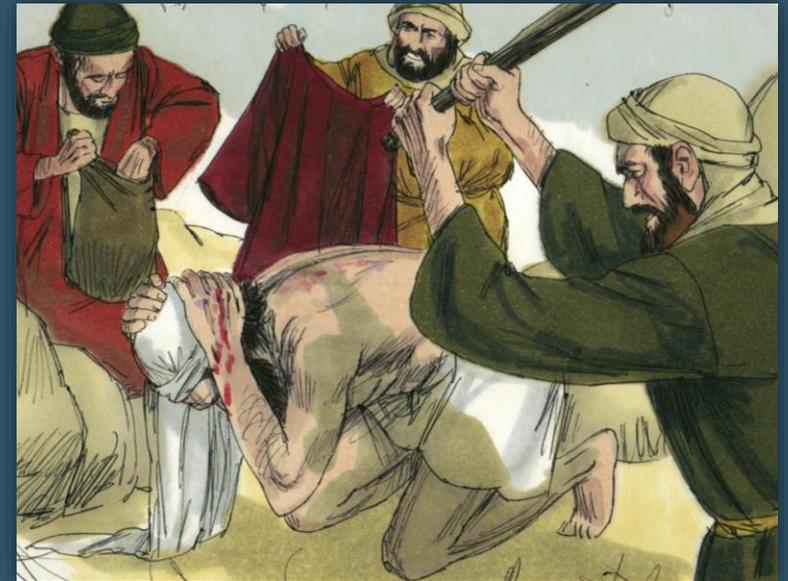
THE SAMARITANS

Luke 9:51-54 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; **but the people there did not welcome him**, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

John 4:5-9 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (**For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.**)

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 - The Jews did not associate with Samaritans
 - Who might he choose if he told **us** the story?



LUKE 10:30-35 — OBSERVATIONS 2

- What the Samaritan experienced:
 - He felt **compassion** for a fellow human being
 - He identified with the man's plight and pain
 - He imagined how he would want to be treated
- What the Samaritan knew:
 - The man needed help
 - He had the means to help
 - He was prepared to help



GOD PREPARES US FOR GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:10 We are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- Good works can be general or specific
- God prepares us in various ways:
 - Our skills, talents, and abilities
 - Our knowledge of His word
 - Our past experiences
- God puts us in situations where we need to use our “training”

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- What the Samaritan knew:
 - The man needed help
 - He had the means to help
 - He was prepared to help
- What the Samaritan did:
 - Everything he could

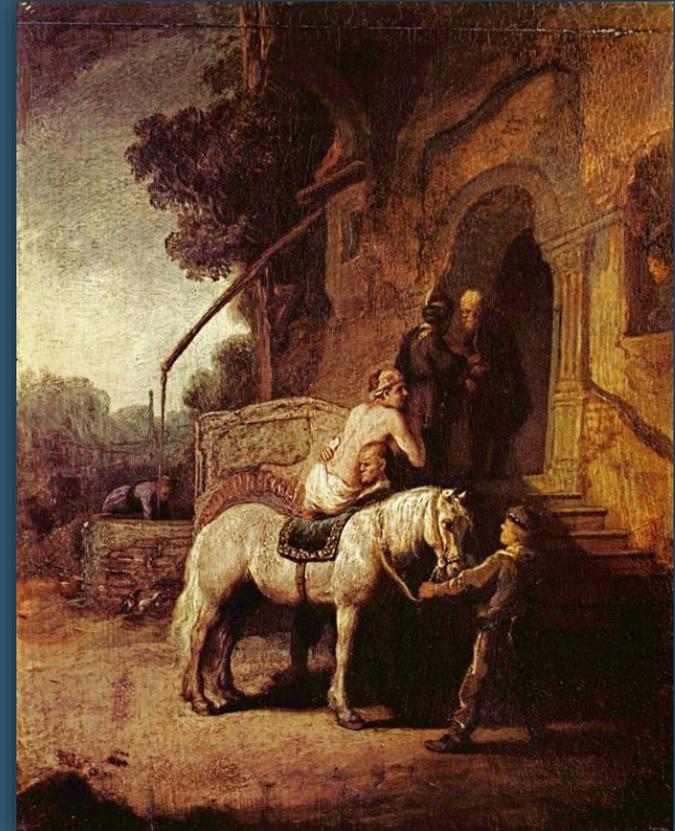


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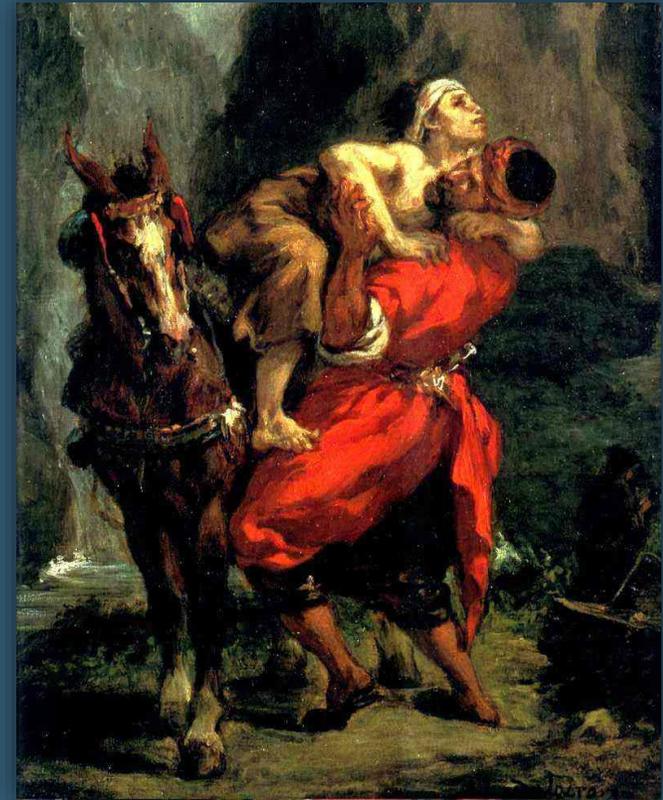
LUKE 10:30-35 — OBSERVATIONS 3

- The Samaritan did what he could...
 - Provided first aid
 - Took him to the inn
 - Provided for his needs
- Then he left the man in another's care
 - He recognized his own limits
 - He found the right person to care for the man
 - He planned future investment and follow-up



LUKE 10:30-35 — OBSERVATIONS 4

- The impact on the man:
 - He was rescued
 - He was rehabilitated
 - He was restored
- The impact on the Samaritan:
 - He was inconvenienced
 - It cost him time
 - It required effort
 - It cost him money
- What the Samaritan got in return:
 - ?



THE QUESTION AND ANSWER — LUKE 10:36-37

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lawyer] s
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For it is not the hearers of the Law who are just
before God, **but the doers of the Law** will be
justified. For when Gentiles who do not have the
Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not
having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they
show the work of the Law written in their hearts,
their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts
alternately accusing or else defending them,
(Romans 2:13-15)

said

or"

- Does Jesus' statement apply to us?
 - "Go and do the same."

THE QUESTION — HOW CAN I GET ETERNAL LIFE?

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..." Acts 16:31

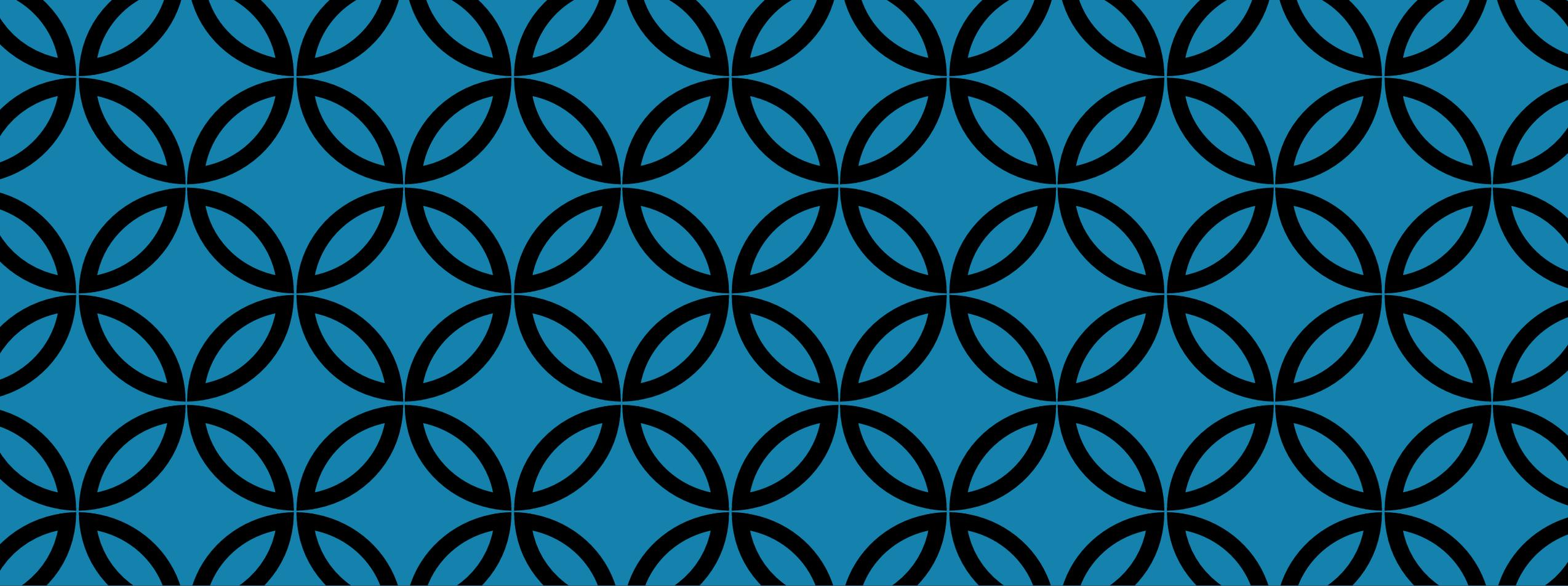
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THE QUESTION — WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF ME?

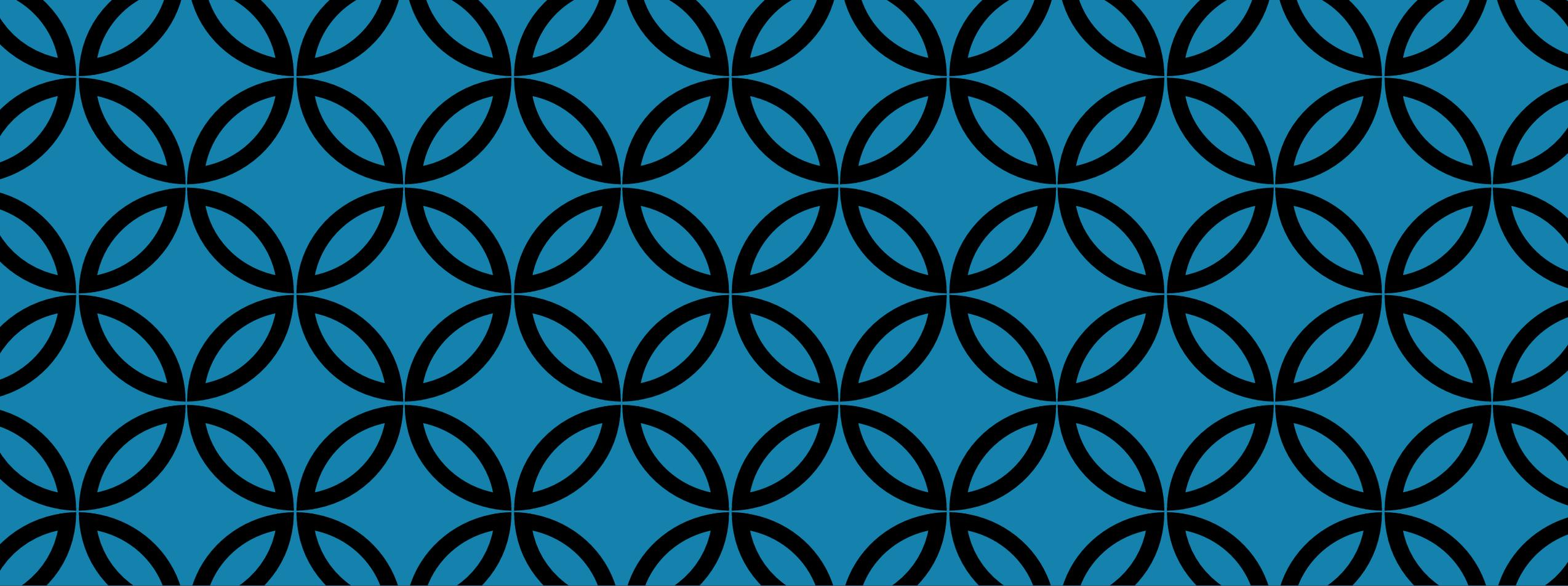
Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Mark 12:29-31 Jesus said, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Romans 13:8-10 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For [the entire law] is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



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