

“One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Luke 10:25 NLT

## [lectio] // LUKE 10:25-37

Luke has me at “an expert in religious law!” The gospel writers captured so much of the tension that existed and will always exist in humans understanding true spirituality. As an “expert” it meant that this man really focused on studying and knowing ALL the past & present books (Rabbi’s oral position papers) on the subject of God’s law. That’s impressive! It also doesn’t surprise me that an “expert” would want to test a learner and/or another expert, this is how a good healthy discussion should go. This question was probably so common in that day, like, “Why did the chicken cross the road?” or “Did Adam have a belly button?” The question or test is meant to engage a listener/learner. That’s good, right? But this guy gets an answer out of Jesus, but isn’t satisfied with the common rehearsed response. BTW, we don’t know if Jesus was the only Rabbi to combine two familiar but disconnected OT scriptures concerning the idea of “how to earn or inherit.” Jesus quoted the Shema AND a quote about loving a neighbor out of Leviticus 18:19, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” This didn’t seem to throw the expert off track, but then Luke writes, “The man wanted to justify his actions.” This is like, “oops, your religion is showing there buddy.” This is where a healthy discussion gets real with some kind of application of people’s wonky ideas about God. This is where we find out what we really believe! How do we live it?

## [oratio]

Dad,  
I’m not sure I want to be an expert on spirituality and maybe even spiritual direction for others. It’s a tough job holding onto and wielding all that knowledge and being able to access it, quote it and even test folks on it. I love the beauty of discussing ideas, but then I get tired of trying to figure out what I (or others) should do with it. Does it help me to love Robin, our kids or friends more? Does it help me BE more like Jesus? Does it help me solve massively complicated issues that individuals and families get themselves into? MOST of the time, the answer is No - it does not. Do I want to be an expert? Not really. I want to be smart enough, resourceful enough and have margin for seeing a need and doing something about it. Even if that’s just being a friend and walking with someone through it. I don’t think my brain or body is robust enough to handle “expert” and “helps.” I’m sure everyone is impressed with the experts knowledge, but when you’re broken and bleeding, knowledge of pain isn’t all that helpful.

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root