

How to Study the Bible

Five Phases of a Story

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30 - 37

Situation

This is the background, circumstances, persons, and so forth,
which set the scene for the story.

Stress

The second phase of a story is the stress of a problem that occurs.

This phase creates interest
and draws the audience into the struggle.



Search

Various solutions are explored as the story unfolds.

Solution

After the search comes the solution to the trouble at the heart of the story.

(New) Situation

The story has come full circle
to a resetting of the scene.

Luke 10:30 - 37

30 Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

Luke 10:30 - 37

31 “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.

Luke 10:30 - 37

32 A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:30 - 37

33 “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

Luke 10:30 - 37

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Luke 10:30 - 37

34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.

Luke 10:30 - 37

35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

Luke 10:30 - 37

36 “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

Luke 10:30 - 37

37 The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”