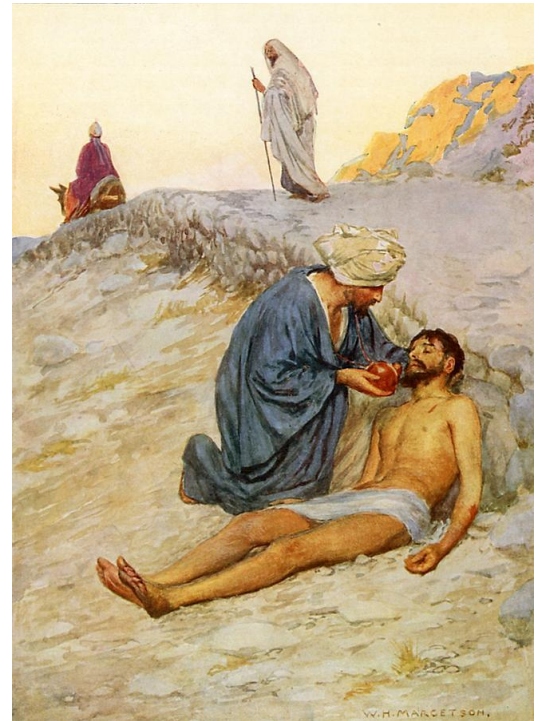




Lesson 29

Jesus' Parable: The Loving Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37



Parables of Jesus

Earthly stories with heavenly meanings

The things in nature that are found in Jesus' parables do not in themselves lead us to God. The stories in themselves do not lead us to God. In fact, Jesus said of some of His parables so that in the case of unbelievers the result was a hearing without understanding (Matthew 13:11-17).

God Himself must give us the key of understanding and He does give the key to His disciples through His Word. The more we learn to know Jesus Christ and His Word, the better we shall be able to understand Jesus' parables and present them properly.

There are three parts to most parables:

1. The background information or situation.
2. The narrative that tells of earthly things that really happen.
3. The spiritual lesson.

Some parables Jesus Himself explained to His disciples in clear language—for example, the Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-23) and the Tares Among the Wheat (Matthew 13:24-43). In other cases, we are left to discover the meaning through studying the context and the rest of Scripture.

The following observations concerning parables can be made:

- A) Parables have many details but one intended meaning and lesson. Find the one Spirit-intended lesson.
- B) Be aware of local color to help in the understanding of the "every day" part of a parable.

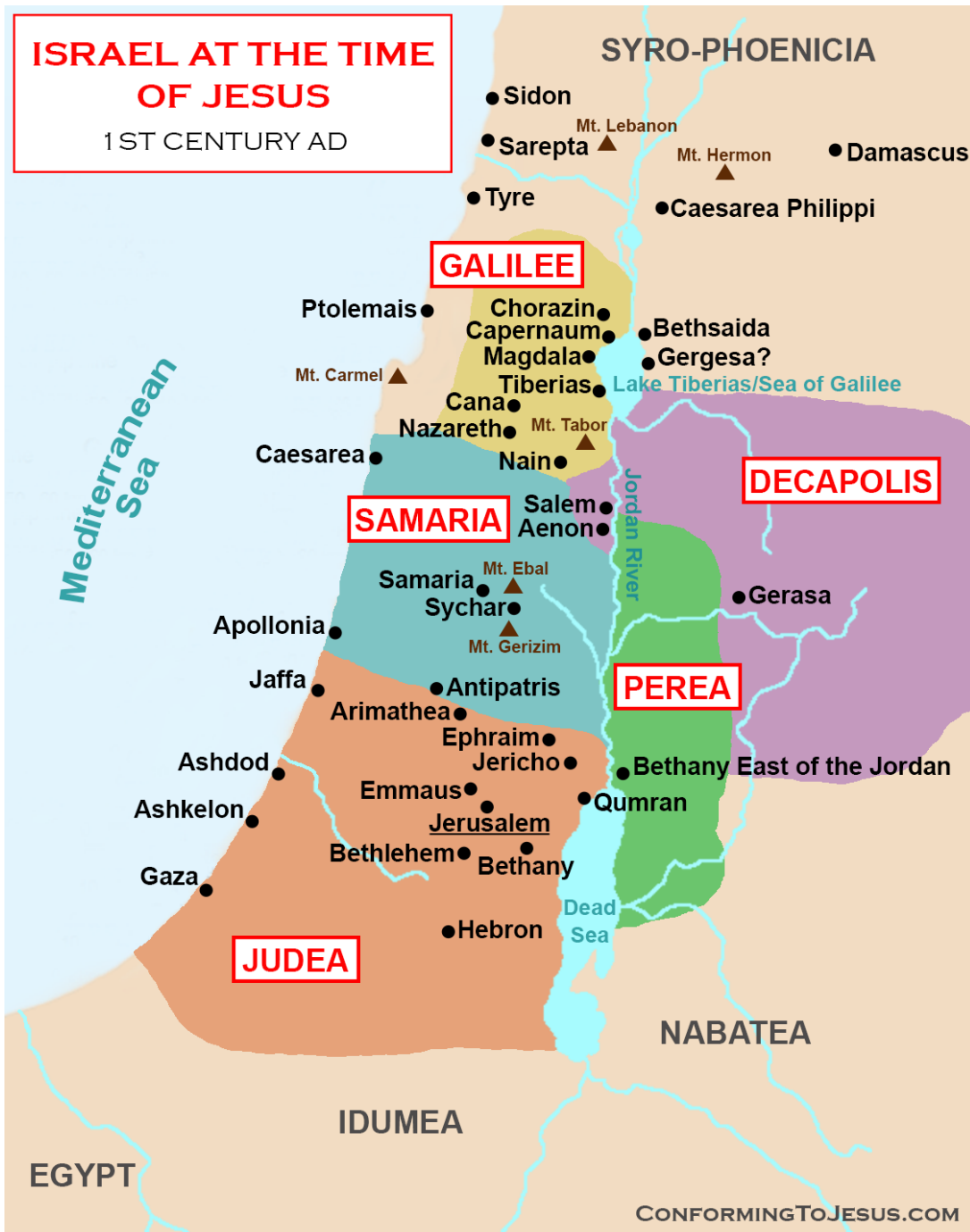
- C) No parable should be explained in any way contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God elsewhere in Scripture.
- D) No parable should be used as a starting point for doctrine, but rather to confirm and illustrate doctrines taught in plain language elsewhere.
- E) Before we attempt to explain the individual parts of the parable, we should try to grasp the central truth of the parable.
- F) Almost invariably, Jesus' explanations of His parables, His introductions to the parables, His summary statements, or the general context in which a parable is spoken, supplies the key to proper understanding.
- G) If we are perplexed about the meaning of a parable, we should grasp/teach it as best we can, acknowledging our ignorance. "Sometimes, one may carry an obscure passage around for years when suddenly it begins to shine."

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 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."

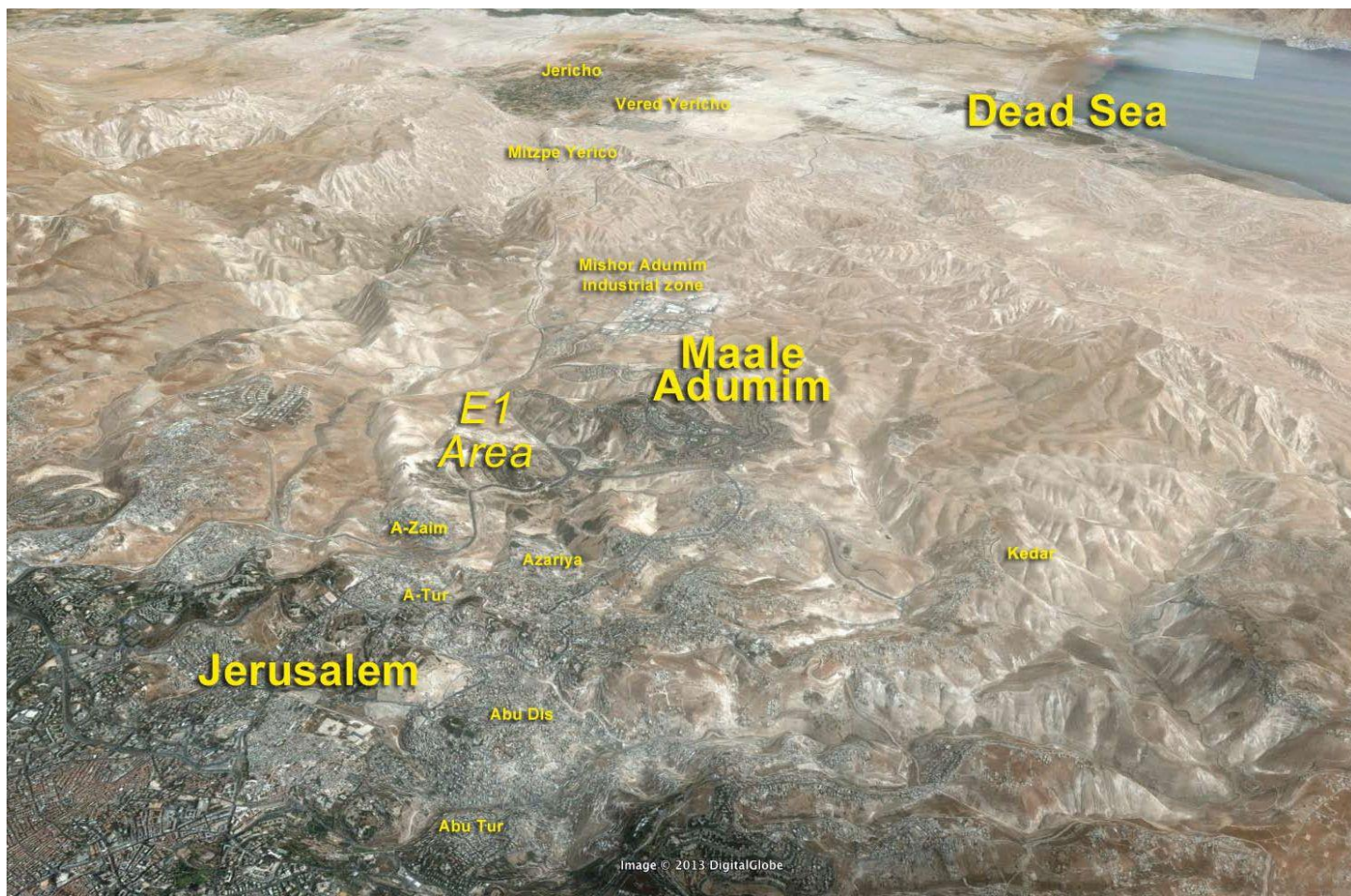
²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "**And who is my neighbor?**"

³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho (15.5 miles),



In the time of Jesus, the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was notorious for its danger and difficulty, and was known as the "Way of Blood" because "of the blood which is often shed there by robbers"

At an altitude of 864 feet below sea level, Jericho is the lowest permanently inhabited town on Earth, and the oldest.





and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.



³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he **passed by on the other side.**

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, **passed by on the other side.**

Jericho was a city for priests and levites and many lived there.

³³ But a **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, **he had compassion.**



³³ But a **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’

³⁶ **Which** of these three, do you think, **proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”**

³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, **“You go, and do likewise.”**



1. Consider Jesus' wise choices in the setting and characters of His parable
2. Sacrifices made by the Samaritan
 - a. Personal Safety
 - b. Time (on road, and delay in city)
 - c. Walking the journey vs. riding
 - d. Expense
3. Jesus' change of question to provide a more important answer
4. Application to our lives; 5th commandment