



### Coffeeville First Baptist Church

By **Craig Baker,**  
Pastor

By the time you read this, I am hopeful that most have somewhat returned to normal after the destruction and power outages caused by the ice storm this past weekend. We are blessed to live in an area where even strangers are willing to work together to help and support not just their close family but anyone in the community who is in need.

I recently read about an experiment conducted in several large cities to test if people today will help one another. In the experiment, the researchers had a man pretend to collapse on a busy sidewalk. As people walked by, he continually asked for help. After 5 minutes, around 150 people had passed close enough to hear him asking for help, but not a single person tried to help him. The closest anyone came was one lady who walked up, looked at him for a few seconds, and then walked off.

In a lot of ways, this is the modern-day equivalent of what happened to the man we are told about in Luke 10:25-37. It is the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, and it was told in response to a question a lawyer asked Jesus. In the first 5 verses we see what brought Jesus to tell this story. We are told this lawyer, an expert in Old Testament Law, stands up to test Jesus. The man asked, "What do I have to do to inherit eternal life?" This is the same question that the rich young ruler in Matthew asked Jesus.

Jesus said to the lawyer, "You know the law. What does it say?"

The lawyer replied "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Now do it." Jesus is not saying that the Law will save this man. Jesus knows and this lawyer knows that no one can meet the requirements of God's Law. Scripture says to break one commandment is to break them all. To be saved by the Law would require that we never commit any sin. We all know that is impossible. Jesus wants the lawyer to realize by his own admission that following the Law cannot save him because he could never follow it perfectly. Now the lawyer probably figured he met the first part of the command well enough. He loved God, but meeting the second part would depend on who was considered his neighbor. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" What he is asking is, "Just who I owe this kind of love?" The lawyer is like us. He was trying to reduce God's commandments to something he could live with. We would like to believe that loving our neighbor as ourselves means loving people who love us or at least loving people who are like us; doing nice things for people who can and probably will do nice things for us. That is the situation with the lawyer. He considers his neighbors to be his fellow Jews,

but not even all the Jews; just the ones who are on the same social and economic level as he is. Jesus answered by telling him a story. It is a simple story meant to show the lawyer how wrong he was in thinking he really loved God and his neighbor as the Law required. The story Jesus told the man is what we call the story of the good Samaritan.

Jesus said, "A certain man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. These were Jewish cities with Jewish people, so it would have been understood that this traveler was a Jew. Somewhere along the way he is robbed, beaten, and left for dead. The guy was naked and bleeding lying on the edge of the road, but thankfully a priest came by. How lucky could this guy get? No doubt such a religious and Godly man would help someone in such desperate need. He was supposed to be an example of righteousness for others to follow. If anyone would keep the greatest commandment to love God and his neighbors as himself, surely it would be this Jewish priest. However, Jesus said when the priest came to the man he not only refused to help him, but he avoided him by moving to the other side of the road. Then a Levite came along after the priest. Again, the Levite was not necessarily a priest, but he was supposed to be a Godly man. They are workers in the Temple. They were responsible for assisting the priest and overseeing the care of the Temple. They knew and supposedly followed the God's Law. As far as being Godly and religious, they are right up there with the priests. If you were this guy left for dead on the edge of the road, you could not have been more fortunate to than having another of what should be

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## Meet The Coffeeville High School Pirates December Student Athletes Of The Month

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### December Coffeeville High School Female Student Athlete Of The Month:

**Jamaya Vance**



### December Coffeeville High School Male Student Athlete Of The Month:

**Kashun Kincaide**

Kashun Kincaide is the son of Michelle Kincaide and Kawson Jackson. He is a junior at Coffeeville High School and was born October 1st, 2008. Kash's favorite athlete is LeBron James and his toughest opponent is Water Valley. His favorite movie is "Home Alone" and his favorite food is lasagna. He is a member of New Beginnings Community Church. Kash's dream vacation is to travel to Dubai. After high school Kash plans to get his CDL.

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