
THE GOOD SAMARITAN NOTES

The Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, and while on the way he is robbed of everything he had, including his clothing, and is beaten to within an inch of his life. That road was treacherously winding and was a favorite hideout of robbers and thieves. The first person that saw the man was a priest. But the priest kept on walking – not stopping to help him at all.

The next person that walks by does the same thing – he passes right by him without showing any compassion, help or assistance. Just walked by someone that was hurt and in need. The next person to come by is the Samaritan, the one least likely to have shown compassion for the man. Samaritans were considered a low class of people – that don't care about anyone, that is not worth talking to and disobeyed the law.

The "Good Samaritan" saw only a person in dire need of assistance, and assist him he did, above and beyond the minimum required. He dresses the man's wounds with wine (to disinfect) and oil (to sooth the pain). He puts the man on his animal and takes him to an inn for a time of healing and pays the innkeeper with his own money. He then goes beyond common decency and tells the innkeeper to take good care of the man, and he would pay for any extra expenses on his return trip. The Samaritan saw his neighbor as anyone who was in need.

Because the good man was a Samaritan, Jesus is drawing a strong contrast between those who knew the law and those who actually followed the law in their lifestyle and conduct.

- Jesus is telling us to follow the Samaritan's example in our own conduct; i.e.,
- We are to show compassion and love for those we encounter in our everyday activities.
- We are to love others (vs. 27) regardless of their race or religion;
- the criteria is need. If they need our help and we have the supply or self, then we are to give generously and freely, without expectation of return.

We cannot always follow the laws of Jesus - our heart and desires are mostly related to ourself but following Jesus allows us to look at others and help them.

Think of this:

- Set aside our prejudice and show love and compassion for others. (2)
- Our neighbor is anyone we encounter; we are all creatures of the creator
- We are to love all of mankind as Jesus has taught.

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