

## **The Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**

One day, a teacher of the law came up to Jesus, eager to test Him. He asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"

The man answered confidently, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself."

"Right!" Jesus said. "Do this, and you will live."

But the man, wanting to justify himself, pressed on, "And who is my neighbor?"

To answer this, Jesus told a story:

"There was once a man traveling on a dangerous road from Jerusalem down to Jericho. As he walked, robbers suddenly jumped out, beat him severely, stole all he had, and left him lying on the road, barely alive.

Soon, a priest happened to be going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he looked at him but quickly crossed to the other side of the road, pretending not to see.

Then, a Levite, someone who helped with temple duties, came along. He also noticed the man, but like the priest, he passed by on the other side, unwilling to stop.

Finally, a Samaritan came traveling down the road. Now, Samaritans and Jews were enemies; they hated each other. But when the Samaritan saw the man, his heart was filled with compassion.

He went to the injured man, poured oil and wine on his wounds to soothe the pain, and bandaged him carefully. Then, he lifted the man onto his own donkey, brought him to an inn, and took care of him throughout the night.

The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper money and said, 'Take care of him. If it costs more, I will pay you when I come back.'

Jesus asked the teacher of the law, 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

## **Lesson from the Story:**

A Deeper Lesson from the Good Samaritan:

This story goes beyond simply telling us to be kind. It challenges us to look honestly at how we view others, especially those who are different from us or even considered enemies.

1. Compassion over Prejudice: The Samaritan helped someone who was technically his enemy.

This was radical because Samaritans and Jews despised each other deeply. Jesus is telling us that true love ignores race, religion, politics, or social boundaries.

2. Action, Not Just Words: The priest and the Levite were religious leaders who should have known better. They had the knowledge of the law but lacked mercy in action. The Samaritan acted without hesitation. Jesus shows that faith is demonstrated in how we treat others - not just by knowing the rules.

3. Sacrifice and Commitment: The Samaritan didn't just bandage the wounds and leave. He cared for the man overnight and paid in advance for further care. This teaches us that true kindness often requires personal sacrifice and ongoing commitment, not just a quick act.

4. Who Is Your Neighbor?: The story flips the question around. Your neighbor is not just someone who lives near you or looks like you. Your neighbor is anyone in need whom you can help.

How This Applies Today:

In a world filled with division - whether by race, religion, politics, or social status - the Good Samaritan challenges us to rise above hatred and indifference. It asks us to be courageous enough to show mercy where others turn away.

Every day, we meet people in need - sometimes physically, sometimes emotionally or spiritually. Like the Samaritan, we are called to respond with compassion, kindness, and generosity, even when it's inconvenient or risky.