

Luke 10:29-37 But he [a lawyer], willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded [him], and departed, leaving [him] half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked [on him], and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow [next morning] when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

1. Introduction

- a. Story of Good Samaritan similar to “social distancing” practiced today
- b. Story tells of two Jewish leaders who kept their “spiritual distance” from a man who needed help

2. Those Who “Beat Up” (thieves)

- a. Victim left abused
 - i. Man beaten, robbed of his clothes, & left half-dead
 - ii. Nature of a thief

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I [Jesus] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- b. Victim left abandoned
 - i. They similar to their spiritual father the Devil

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

- ii. They took everything
- iii. God’s counsel to thieves

Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

- iv. God’s comfort for travelers

Romans 8:35, 37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- c. In contrast, Jesus promises never to leave us

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

3. Those Who “Pass Up” (priest and Levite)

- a. Alerted to the need (both saw victim needed help)

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

- b. Acknowledged the need (both knew victim needed help)

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

- c. Avoided the need

- i. Spiritual distancing: passing by other side of road
- ii. They would know God’s warning given to Israel

Jeremiah 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead¹ [healing medicine]; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

4. Those Who “Help Up” (Samaritan)

- a. Unlikely source

- i. Jewish nation disliked half breed Samaritans
- ii. But he instead ministered (served) to beaten man
- iii. God does not discriminate

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

- b. Unabated sacrifice (all his effort)

- i. He did all he could for victim
- ii. He cared for man’s wounds
- iii. He provided for man’s recovery

- c. Unheralded service

- i. Paid for victim’s expense without asking for his money back
- ii. Didn’t wait for victim’s gratitude
- iii. Nothing stated of ever meeting victim again

¹ The region of Gilead in Israel abounded in spices and aromatic ointments, which were exported. One particular evergreen tree provided a medicinal oil or resin (“balm of Gilead”), in very small quantities, of great value for its supposed medicinal qualities.