A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers... But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. (Luke 10:30a, 33)

God of all compassion, your love and mercy extends to all who are in need and you see those who are suffering. Grant that we would also see the suffering and be moved to help care for them. We give thanks for the tender care that you have shown us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Jesus told a parable of a man who was ambushed by robbers and left near death by the side of the road. Two religious leaders walked by and didn't help the man. But a Samaritan had compassion and stopped to take care of the injured man and bring him to safety.

Read: Luke 10:25-37

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

_____

The Biblical Context

Wherever Jesus went, crowds would follow. Jesus taught the people as they gathered, often using simple picture-stories called parables.

The term comes from the Greek word *parabolé* (pah-RAH-bow-lay), meaning "figure" or "comparison." Parables make up approximately 35 percent of his teachings. Jesus used simple, everyday examples to explain to his disciples the secrets of the Kingdom of God.

Some parables are short metaphorical images; others, like this one, are extended stories used to illustrate the nature of God. In this story, Jesus not only illustrates what it means to love our neighbors, he also foreshadows his own ministry to seek and save the lost. Jesus has come to be our true Neighbor.

Discussion Questions

1. When a lawyer asked Jesus a question, where did Jesus tell him to look for answers? Why is this important for us to do as well?

2. The young man knew that God wants us to love our neighbors. So why do you think he felt the need to ask: "Who is my neighbor?" What do you imagine was going on in his head?

3. What is a "parable"? Why do you think Jesus used parables to teach and answer people's questions?

4. According to Jesus, what makes someone a "neighbor?" Who in the story was the true neighbor to the injured man?

5. Think of someone who has shown you help and kindness. In what way was that person a neighbor to you? Why is it a good thing to accept help from others?

6. When have you been a good neighbor to someone else? In what way do we serve as God's "tools" or "instruments" when we do good to others?

7. Read 1 John 3:11-18. What does John say here that matches what Jesus taught in his parable? How is it that we can sin not only by what we do, but also by what we neglect doing?

8. According to John, how has Jesus shown us the way we should treat others?

Copyright 2020 © Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com); Permission is granted to active subscribers of SEED: Sola's Electronic Education Database to download and photocopy for local use.