

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

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The Jewish man had a long way to go
on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho,
and no one to travel with him...
but he went anyway.
Other people came and went this way
so he wouldn't really be alone, would he?
He was so confident
that he didn't even hear the bandits approach.
They beat him until he was barely alive;
they took his money
and his clothes
and left him for dead by the side of the road.

Eventually another man came that way—
a Jewish priest with his mind on holy business.
He saw the man lying there, barely alive;
it made him sick to his stomach...
so he moved to the other side of the road
and walked away as quickly as he could.

In time another man also passed that way—
a Jewish assistant from the Temple in Jerusalem,
on his way to begin his time of service.
He too saw the man, barely alive,
but he was in a hurry to get to the Temple
and couldn't afford to get his holy robes bloody...
so he also moved to the other side of the road
and hurried along so he could go serve his God.

It was late in the day when the third man came by—
a man from Samaria, a man hated by most other Jews,
riding on a donkey.
When he saw the man, he rushed over
and knelt by his side,
sickened to see his fellow man in such a state
but relieved to learn he still lived.

The Samaritan dug through his pack
until he found ointment and some fresh cloth.
He cleaned and bandaged the Jewish man's wounds
as well as he could,
then put him on his donkey
and carried him to an inn
where he cared for him overnight.

The next morning he went to the innkeeper
and gave him a couple of days' wages.
"Care for my friend," he told him,
"and should his expenses run higher than this,
make a bill in my name;
I will pay you back when I return."

"Now, which of these men acted as a neighbor
to the man attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.
"Go and do the same."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is recorded in only one of the gospels — Luke 10:25-37. Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Verse 29) and He replied with this parable. But while no explanation was given, the meaning is clear; as Jesus told His disciples, "Go and do the same" (Verse 37)