

**Who Is My Neighbor?
I Don't Want To Love Just Anybody.**

**By Daniel W. Alt
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I Don't Want To Love Just Anybody.

Inspired by Dr. Adrain Rogers

That second line is inferred from the mouth of the lawyer of Luke 10 otherwise he would not have asked the question. Jesus of course response was the parable of the Good Samaritan in verses 30-36. Let's pick these verses apart because they are really full of good teaching.

^{Luke 10:30} 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.**

According to Wikipedia, Jerusalem is approximately 2577 feet above sea level where as Jericho is 853 feet below sea level. That is a difference of 3430 feet across the 17 miles distance between the two cities; a steep downhill walk.

Jericho was a heathen city that Joshua said that the man that rebuilt it would be cursed. (See Joshua 6:26) Jerusalem was the Holy City; so this man was going from holiness to a hellish city – he was backsliding, going away from God, going down, down, down.

He fell among thieves. When you leave God for hell and the world this is what you get. The world and hell hate you and will beat you up, strip you of your possessions and leave you alone only when you have little life left to give. Sometimes they will take even that little bit too.

^{Vs. 31} **And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.**

The priest represents the religious people who perform the rituals of religion. There is no salvation in either the rituals or the religions themselves; so the priest avoids the injured man lest the injured man die and the priest become “unclean” until sundown and unable to perform his “priestly duties” according to the Law of Moses. So he avoids him like the plague showing no compassion only self absorption.

^{Vs. 32} **And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.**

The Levite represents the law; and the rules of living from society from which there seems to be no end. There also is no salvation in them either. The law points out our sin and condemns us for it; but it cannot save us in spite of its condemnation of us. This one too avoids saving the downtrodden and oppressed and he too had no compassion in him at all; a necessary component of mercy.

^{Vs. 33} **But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,**

The Samaritan was a mongrel of uncertain parentage, hated of men just like Jesus. And just like Jesus he had compassion on this beaten up by the world, robbed, and left for dead man.

^{Vs. 34} **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.**

When we come to God what is it that He does? He binds up our wounds – He heals us. How? By pouring in Oil – His Holy Spirit the comforter; and Wine - the Blood of Jesus; the Blood cleanses us of sin while the oil heals up from the inside out.

Then the Samaritan set the man on his own beast. The man came in walking and the Samaritan came in riding; now the man went out riding while the Samaritan went out walking. This is the perfect picture of substitution: Jesus takes our place wounded for our transgressions and we take His place on a throne.

Vs. 35 **And on the morrow 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.**

The Inn of verse 34 is the Church and we the members of God's Church are the host. God brings us into the church to be taken care of by the Church and eventually to become part of the host; but sadly some treat the Church like a hospital and as soon as they think that they are well they leave and don't stay to minister to others as they were. This is where compassion and mercy show themselves in a person; if they stay and minister to others they have compassion and mercy; if they leave they do not.

In verse 35 God paid the initial price and then promised to come again; He will return and repay for all the works of man whether they be good works or bad works the promise is for a hundred fold repayment.

Vs. 36 **Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?**

Who loved with Agape?

Vs. 37 **And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.**

Amen!

Sources

Dr. Adrain Rogers Love Worth Finding Ministries www.lwf.org

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