

## WHAT MAKES A “GOOD” SAMARITAN

### Luke 10:26-37

Int: Most folks call this man “the good Samaritan.” Jesus did not. He called him only “a certain Samaritan.” And he saved “good” for God alone (Mk 10:18). But this man surely did good to the victim on the road. And Jesus said his followers were to do as he did! This gets right to the heart of what it means to live as a Christian in this world. The Lord wants his disciples to be “good Samaritans.” Jesus’ story points to

#### THE CHRISTIAN’S COMPASSION

Jesus said nothing about how the priest and Levite felt when they found the injured man, probably because they felt nothing! Their hearts were hard.

But the Samaritan stopped because he had “compassion” (*explagnisthe*), the strongest word in the New Testament for caring! The sight of that mound of misery by on the roadside hit him right in the pit of the stomach!

To be a “good Samaritan” a Christian must care about others in need. Do you?

#### THE CHRISTIAN’S CONDUCT

Jesus’ story laid out three rules of conduct by which men live. “Beat ‘em up! Pass ‘em up! Pick ‘em up!” The world is full of thugs who follow the first rule. Hard-hearted church members often follow the second. But Jesus means his people to pick folks up!

Notice that this Samaritan gave his personal attention to the man’s need. He did not call 911 or report the man to a government agency or to the pastor and deacons. He used his own resources: oil and wine to soothe and sterilize the wounds; his own clothing for bandages; his own steed for the man to ride on; paid for a month’s stay out of his own pocket, and promised to foot any extra expense on the man’s behalf.

How long since you gave yourself in service to someone else in Jesus’ name?

To be a “good Samaritan” a Christian must live out his compassion in Christian conduct. Do you?

#### THE CHRISTIAN’S CIRCLE

The Jews of Jesus’ day drew circles to shut people out. The Samaritan drew his circle to take people in. His circle included *the unknown*; the man in the ditch was a stranger. It included *the unfriendly*; Jews were ancient and bitter enemies of Samaritans. And it included *the unprofitable*; he had no hope for reimbursement of his out-of-pocket expenses because Samaritans had no legal rights in Jewish courts.

To be a “good Samaritan” a Christian’s circle must take people in. Does yours?

Con. The sharp city lawyer never expected the answer he got. In fact, he asked the wrong question. He should have asked not “Who is my neighbor?” but “To whom may I be a neighbor?” And the answer to that question is, “He who needs me is my neighbor!”

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again” ((Etienne de Gellet).