

October 31st

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Scripture Reading: Luke 10:17-12:12

Memory Verses: Luke 10:36-37 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Song: "The Greatest Commands"

"Not my business!" That's what the priest and the Levite thought. They found excuses in their own minds for "passing by on the other side." What did they pass?

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead" (10:30).

Having been on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem, I can say this is an exceptionally convenient place for robbers to hide and surprise a traveler. There are numerous narrow grooves in the mountains beside the road, places where robbers can suddenly jump out and overcome an unsuspecting person.

The traveler was helpless, hurting, and embarrassed. He needed help, and the Samaritan helped him. Jews looked down on the Samaritans, because of their corrupted religion (2 Kings 17). But this Samaritan proved more loving than either the Levite or the priest.

Luke especially points out that people from all walks of life can nevertheless be kind and good to others. If this is true, how much more so should Christians be kind to the hurting?

The lawyer who asked, "Who is my neighbor?" learned that others besides his own kind were also neighbors. He learned we have responsibilities to all in need.

Prayer: "Oh Father, thank You for loving me when I needed You. Help me to imitate that love and care for others who have need. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

Thought Questions:

Do I only help people I like?

People I consider like me?

Am I afraid to help a stranger?