

The Good Samaritan

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-42

MEMORY VERSE: These things I command you, that you love one another.
John 15:17

CHARACTERS: Man traveling, robbers, priest, Levite, Samaritan, innkeeper, donkey

Sometimes Jesus told stories to teach a lesson. Jesus told this story about a Samaritan man. The Jewish people didn't like the Samaritans. They were like two villages fighting one another. One day a teacher of the law asked Jesus what to do to have life forever. Jesus knew this was a smart man so Jesus asked him, "What does the law say?" The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." Also, "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself." Jesus agreed that this was the way to have life forever. Then the man asked, "Who is my neighbor?" This is the story Jesus told him.

There was a man travelling from one village to another. Robbers attacked him. They beat him up, took his clothes and his money. They ran away and left him lying there, almost dead. A little later a Jewish priest came by. He saw the injured man but chose to walk past him on the far side of the path and hurried on without offering to help. Next, a Levite came along. Levites helped the priests do their work. The Levite went over and looked at the man lying on the path but he too hurried away without offering to help the injured man.

Then, a Samaritan came along. Usually they would do nothing for a Jewish person. But this Samaritan stopped his donkey and walked over to the injured man. He spoke kindly to him. He cleaned the man's cuts and bandaged them. He gave the man a drink of cool water and then lifted him up onto his donkey. He took the injured man to an inn and stayed there with him all night. The next morning the Samaritan asked the innkeeper to take care of the injured man. He gave the innkeeper money to do this. He told the innkeeper, "Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again."

Then Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?" The teacher of the law said, "The one who helped him." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same thing he did!"

Jesus wants us all to be kind and helpful to one another!