

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-42

by Don Falkos

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A man came to Jesus with a question, "The Law says to love your neighbor as you love yourself. But who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responded by telling a story:

A man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho. He was attacked, robbed, beaten up, and left at the side of the road, half dead.

A priest saw the injured man, but passed by on the other side of the road. A Levite did the same.

Then a despised half-breed from Samaria took pity. He disinfected and bandaged the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and continued to care for him. The next morning, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper some money and said, "Look after him. I'll stop by on my way back and reimburse you for any additional expenses."

Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the injured man – the religious leader, the lay associate, or the hated foreigner?"

"I suppose it was the one who helped him – the Samaritan."

"That's right. Go, and follow his example."

Later, a woman named Martha invited Jesus to her home. Martha's sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet listening to everything he said. But Martha was distracted by meal preparations. After a while, in frustration, she came to Jesus and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work? Tell her to help me."

The Lord replied, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about so many things. But there is only one thing that is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her."