

Robber's Road (Good Samaritan)

²⁵ “On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher’, he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ²⁶ ‘What is written in the Law?’ He {Jesus} replied. ‘How do you read it?’ ²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸ ‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”

³⁶ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

The story of the Good Samaritan teaches us that following Jesus is not simply believing the right things. It is living with compassion, generosity, and love that crosses every barrier.

1) COMPASSION sees what others walk past.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along and when he **saw** the man, he felt **compassion** for him.” Luke 10:33 (NLT)

Compassion is more than NOTICING the pain of another, it is allowing someone else’s pain to INTERRUPT your plans.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but **with actions** and in truth.” 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

- **Who am I walking past?**
- **Do I welcome interruptions?**

2) GENEROSITY gives beyond what is required.

“...Take care of this man. **If** his bill runs higher than this, **I’ll pay** you the next time I’m here.” Luke 10:35b (NLT)

Generosity meets the BASIC NEEDS, and then goes the EXTRA MILE.

[Father God] “‘Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much **blessing** that there will not be room enough to store it.’” Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

- **Tithe = 10% of income**
- **Offering = anything above the tithe**
Other verses for reflection: Leviticus 27:30; Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:25; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- **Am I a Giver? A Tither? A Tither who also gives Offerings?**
- **Does my giving reflect a fully surrendered heart?**

3) LOVE crosses every barrier.

“...A **despised Samaritan** came along. . . Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds . . .” Luke 10:33-34 (NLT)

Love requires us to treat ALL PEOPLE in ways that REFLECT CHRIST.

“So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith . . . There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26,28 (NIV)