

Go and Do Like Wise

'In reply Jesus said: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too a levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when He saw him, he took pity on him. 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. The next day he took out two silver coins 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.' (Luke 10:30-35)

My dear reader: May be you are bored to read this because you have heard already the parable of the Good Samaritan. But, be patient and bear with me, so we may learn more from the Word of Truth.

The story of the Good Samaritan is a famous parable whether inside the church, among the believers, to those who follow Jesus or to those who are away from the church atmosphere. You find them describing the act of someone who does good work without being asked to do-as a Good Samaritan.

In the Gospel of Luke, this parable was told when a man who was an expert in the law asked Jesus, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' But Jesus, knowing that this man was testing Him, asked in return: 'What is written in law?' And the man answered well, saying, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.' (Luke 10: 27) And to most people especially to the experts of the law they can still explain further the rules, by-laws and other legalities on loving God and loving others. But to those who have already accepted and experienced the real love of Jesus they are not bothered about the laws, legalities or traditions but just freely give what they freely receive; the love of Jesus demonstrated by His death on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

To express our love to God is equally meant to express that love to the people around, to those described in the Bible as our neighbours. To love God, and our neighbours as ourselves whoever they are, is the new law written in our hearts as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

In the above parable the man who was injured was left on the road half-dead and was passed by the priest, and by the Levite who avoided him and had gone to the other side. Priests and Levites are the people who serve God. They were expert in the written law of God but here they failed to give their hand to the injured man. They knew the law of love but they were short to express their love to the man who was in need. The Samaritans in historical aspect were considered away from God. But in the parable, although the Samaritan man might not have known the law of love, he acted with love and had shown the true love of God towards the injured man.

The man who was expert in the law asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbour?' And so Jesus told the parable, in reality:

- 1) **The victim:** Our neighbour is the person who is in need, a colleague who is sick, a relative who is in distress, an orphan without food, the thief who is in prison, or a pedestrian just asking for direction.
- 2) **The figure of the half-dead man:** Our neighbour is the broken family that needs rebuilding. It could be a ministry that is falling, or even a church that is dying or crippled by many human rules.
- 3) **The injured man:** Our neighbour could be that broken-hearted person who needs counsel, a sinful heart that needs to repent, or an unbeliever who needs to be saved.

The man who came to Jesus was expert in the written law but Jesus wanted Him to be expert in doing the law with real love of God. Finally, Jesus told him. 'Go and do likewise.'

- 1) **Be Merciful:** 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.' (Luke 6:36) When the Good Samaritan saw the victim, he had mercy on him. God said: 'For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6) The sacrifice could be a gift, offering or prayer, but it would not take priority to show mercy to a half-dead man.
- 2) **Be Responsible:** Jesus' followers could not be able to show mercy and love unless they would be ready to take responsibility. The Good Samaritan showed responsibility and patience in caring for the half-dead man. His act was honourable, even he put his life in danger. While he was attending and caring for the victim on the way he could have been attacked by robbers. He could have been accused of assaulting the victim. But he did not fear because the mercy and love in his heart gave birth to zeal to do the task. What he did was pure and honourable.
- 3) **Be Perfect:** The word of God said. 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect.' (Matthew 5:48) The Good Samaritan took the victim to an inn and told the Innkeeper: 'Look after him, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' The Good Samaritan did not leave the work in the middle or halfway done. He endorsed the victim to the innkeeper. He was not only kind, but also wise. He knew that leaving the victim in the inn without reassuring the owner that he would pay for him later would jeopardize the service that would be given to the injured man.

The world is full of robbers and turmoil. And the Lord is seeking for the Good Samaritan. Even we have the ability to give to the needy, if we don't have the feeling of mercy and responsibility or the burden to do, we find ourselves aborted in the midway. The Good Samaritan has the priority for mercy and a sense of responsibility is burning in his heart. He approaches the victim. He recognizes the dying person, spends time for him and deals with him properly. He bandages his wound and pours oil and wine. He gives him food and drink, and shares with the half-dead man his own personal things. In his procession he puts the injured man on his own donkey and takes him to the inn. He asks the support and help of the other people to be with him in doing good service to the half dead man. The Good Samaritan has his journey and busy business, but when he sees the need of other people, he denies himself and obeys the call of God.

My dear and beloved: We may admire the above words, but if we compare ourselves to him, we have lots of things to do. Don't be amazed but join me and say:

My Prayer: 'Father God in Heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus, who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Today Lord I commit myself unto your hands. Take away my stony heart and give me a heart of flesh so I can show to others mercy and love, Amen.'