

**“The Good Samaritan” by Janice Kramer, and**

**The Three Most Important Lessons to Learn from the Parable of the Good Samaritan**

#1) Jesus did not tell this parable primarily to teach us how to be a good neighbor. He told this parable to show us how miserably we all fail at keeping God’s law of love.

- J is enggd in dialg w/expert/law who in his hrt bels can have right rel w/God based on behvr. Asks J **vs. 25b**, which is most imp qstn anyone can ask. How: have right rel w/God; be saved; get to hvn; inherit etrn life? Well, says J, what law say? **Vs. 27a** (Dt 6); **26b** (Lev 19). Right answer.
- But who can do that?! Who honestly can love God and love their fellowman always & perfly, at all times & w/o fail. Absltly no one! This is an utterly impssbl standard to meet, just like when J: **“Be perf...as your hvnly Fr is perf (Mt 5:48)**. You cannot do that!
- But this man thinks he can! **Vs. 29a**. And to do that, you either have to elevate self way too high, or dumb God’s reqrmnts down way too low. J’ll have none of that! So tells this prepstrs story, re hrtlss clrgy & a compssnt passerby who dramtclly/radicly shows compssn to enemy, not say: hey, you shld be good/kind like him; but show all us: we’re not good/kind like him; we’ve not loved God or nghbr as God demands; we’re lot more like prst/Levite than we’d care to admit. And you may say: come on, I thnk we’re pretty good ppl here; give us some credit! But remem: J isn’t tchng you how be justified before man; tchng...God – whose standard is absolute perfctn.
- So when J tells prbl Gd Smrtn, wants expert/law & evone us realize: I’ve not **vs. 27**. This prbl: prclmnt of law, meant to humble us & drive us to repntnc. That’s it’s primary purp. And that’s les #1.

#2) Christ Jesus has come to you in your greatest need and rescued you fully and freely by his grace.

- The gos in this prbl is that the way Gd Smrtn treats wounded man: image/pic/type how Xp treats us. Our sins leave us beatn/bldy/bruised on side road. We: spiritly penniless, helpss, and hopelss – left to die in shame, suffer in hell. We can do nthng save selves; and wrld doesn’t care; just passes on by.
- But along comes J. Compssn moves him; love fills him. Stoops down to bandage us, rescue us, carry us to safety. J actly did **vs. 27**, always & perfly, at all times & w/o fail. Just look how obeyed God; and look what did for us! Suffrd/died cross for us to pay all sins. Then rose fr dead & gives us credit for sinless life, so we can have etrn life w/him hvn. J did evthng to save us when we could do nothing – just like Gd Smrtn did for wounded man. That’s grace; that’s gos; and that’s les #2.

#3) The Gd Smrtn is an exmpl of how J wants us to treat one another.

- That’s not primary purp/prbl. But when law crushes us in guilt, and then gos restores us by grace, then gos also motvts us live way God wants us live. And God defintly wants us imitate his compssn in how we treat oa. Earlier in Lk, J: **“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... Do to others, as you would have them do to you... Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them w/o expctng to get anything back... Be merciful, just as your Fr is merciful” (Lk 6:27-36)**. Gos-motivated Xian behvr does not earn God’s favor or merit salvtn – we get that! But it does flow naturally from a hrt that Xp has filled w/his love.
- So if you today recognize: gravity/your sin (les #1) and enormity/God’s grace (les #2), then put your faith into action, follow exmpl/Xp, and show compssn to evone you meet. Let love/Xp, compssn/J, grace/God flow thru you onto others. Call it sanctfctn, 3<sup>rd</sup> use/law, or just call it Xian.

I don’t really like way poem concls. Ending: leglstc; moralzs. So I rewrote concls, came up w/own ending:

“Go, do likewise” bids the Lord / to sinners, you and me / “Love God and love your fellowman / always and perfectly.”

His law condemns and shows my sin / impossible the task / for no one can fulfill his will / and do what he does ask.

With broken heart and contrite sigh / repentance now I voice / But Jesus’ pity, love, and grace / give reason to rejoice.

My wounds he binds, my sins he takes / my punishment he bears / His holy life he credits me / perfection with me shares.

Moved by such love, so freely given / my love his love compels / and any lingering bigotry / and lovelessness dispels.

My heart now yearns his love to share / his will my will shall be / to love my neighbor and my Lord / for all his love to me.

## Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> 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.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" <sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

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Over in the Holy Land / so many years ago / a merchant from Jerusalem / wend down to Jericho.  
He started out one lovely morn / as dawn began to break / His little donkey carried / all the things he had to take.  
The trip was rather pleasant / as they went down their way / The merchant thought of all the things / that he would do that day.  
He had some goods to trade and sell / and many things to buy / He hoped to get to Jericho / before the night drew nigh.  
But little did the merchant know / that farther down the road / a band of robbers eyed with greed / the little donkey's load.  
Alert, with evil hearts, they watched / and waited till at last / the unsuspecting merchant / and his beast were walking past.  
The leader of the bandits gave / a terrifying shout / and with this sign the thugs emerged / and suddenly jumped out.  
With great big clubs they beat the man / they beat him till he bled / then took his donkey, stole his goods / and left him almost dead.  
A silence settled over all / the merchant was alone / He lay there suffering by the road / and no one heard him moan.  
Too weak and dazed to help himself / all he could do was wait / Would no one come along to help / before it was too late?  
But down the road there came a man / and he was drawing near / At last the bleeding merchant thought / that help was really here!  
It was a priest in purple robes / hands folded as in prayer / A priest would help the wounded man / a priest would surely care!  
His shuffling footsteps on the road / produced the only sound / while silent was the wounded man / so helpless on the ground.  
The priest was busy praying / his eyes were both shut tight / But one eye chanced to open / and saw the sorry sight.  
"Oh, what a shame!" the priest observed / "I cannot stop today / or I'll be late for service / I must be on my way!"  
"I'm sure that someone will come soon / so I'll just let him lie." / And carefully and quietly / he tiptoed right on by.  
The merchant was alone again / Was this to be the end? / But then another man came down / the road and round the bend.  
He was a Levite who helped the priests / He sure would understand / that here and now he ought to stop / and lend a helping hand.  
The Levite halted in his tracks / his eyes grew very wide / His heart was warm with pity / and felt a pain inside.  
He stood there undecided / he knew he ought to stay / But what he really wanted was / to turn and run away.  
"This truly is a horrid sight" / the troubled Levite said / "I really do believe he ought / to be at home in bed."  
"But I'm no doctor, mercy me / I might do something wrong! / Besides, I feel quite sick myself / I'd better run along."  
The day was drawing to an end / and night was coming on / The merchant now would surely die / for every hope was gone.  
But as the shadows of the night / displaced the light of day / another man came down the road / by which the merchant lay.  
This man was from Samaria / his people long had been / despised and hated by the merchant / and all his countrymen.  
The chance that this Samaritan / would help was very slim / He surely wouldn't want to help / a man who hated him!  
But as he came around the bend / he stopped with great surprise / For when he saw the merchant there / he hardly could believe his eyes.  
"How can it be? This wounded man / is out here all alone / I would have come here sooner, friend / if I had only known!"  
And then the kind Samaritan / got down upon his knee / He tried the very best he could / to help his enemy.  
He gently bound each bloody wound / and tried to ease the pain / Oh, surely, it would be too bad / if he had helped in vain!  
But when he'd given all the help / that he knew how to give / he saw that now, without a doubt / the wounded man would live!  
He gently placed the merchant on / his donkey's back, and then / the two men and the donkey small / went down the road again.  
They had to travel very slow / It was a lonely night / At last the kind Samaritan / beheld a welcome sight.  
He saw a warm and cozy inn / beside the road ahead / He took the merchant to the inn / and put him right to bed.  
Before the good Samaritan / went on along his way / he paid the keeper of the inn / to let the merchant stay.  
"Be sure to take good care of him" / he said, "for I intend / to pay in full, when I return / for everything you spend."  
"Now," asked our Lord, "who helped his fellowman / in every way he could? / Who was the one who acted here / the way a neighbor should?"  
The priest, you'll say, was not the one / he hurried right on by / Nor did the Levite help the man / he seemed afraid to try.  
The good Samaritan – he was / the only one to stay / And though the merchant hated him / he helped him anyway.