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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

By Sr. Katherine (Kit) Gray, CSJ

Before Reading The Scripture Passage

Today's Scripture passage is the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. Before reading it, think about what you remember about the narrative. How does it begin? What details do you recall? How does it end? What does this story mean to you?

Then, read the passage aloud. What detail do you hear that you did not recall before reading the passage?

Today's Gospel

*There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said,
"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law?
How do you read it?"
He said in reply,*

*"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your being,
with all your strength,
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as yourself."*

*He replied to him, "You have answered correctly;
do this and you will live."*

*But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus,
"And who is my neighbor?"*

Jesus replied,

"A man fell victim to robbers

as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down that road,

but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise a Levite came to the place,

and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him

was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim,

poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them.

Then he lifted him up on his own animal,

took him to an inn, and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins

and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction,

'Take care of him.

If you spend more than what I have given you,

I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion,

was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

LUKE 10:25-37



For Pondering

Read and reflect on this passage ...

- From the perspective of the man who “fell victim to robbers.” Literally from his perspective—hurt, alone, bleeding, lying “at the side of the road.”
- From the perspective of the priest and the Levite who “passed by on the opposite side.” What were they thinking?
- From the perspective of the Samaritan traveler who “was moved with compassion.” What motivated him to “approach the victim”? What was “in it” for him?

For Prayer

*God of love, may we always see the world through the eyes of the Good Samaritan and be filled with your deep compassion.
Help us to be merciful neighbors even when it is inconvenient, when we don't have time, or when we have other responsibilities to attend to.
Grant us the insight to see the need in those around us, the wisdom to know how to respond, and the strength to do so willingly.
We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid - the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. Those who, in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten, and left for dead. We pray for all who call from us more than we feel we have to give.
Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. May our love of you and love of our neighbor call us to be people of peace and justice in the world.
And may we, like the Good Samaritan, always 'go and do likewise.'
Amen.*

WITH THANKS TO GOOD SAMARITAN LIFE

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