

## **The Good Samaritan**

Luke 10:25 – 37

*'loving your neighbor'*

In preparing for this week's sermon on the Good Samaritan, I was searching on the internet and found the following story that occurred earlier this week outside of Chicago:

**An Aurora man was pulled to safety Monday moments before two trains hit his car, which had become stuck on railroad tracks in Hinsdale.**

**Franciszek Chudzik, 72, who was cited with driving under the influence of alcohol, had been standing disoriented on the tracks and credited the person who led him away by the arm with saving his life, Hinsdale Deputy Police Chief Mark Wodka said. The accident happened about 5:30 p.m. at the Washington Street crossing in Hinsdale. Police in the west suburb Wednesday released videotape of the train's impact. Earlier reports had said Chudzik was pulled from his car. "He said if it wasn't for this person who approached him, he wouldn't have gotten off the tracks," Wodka said. "He was extremely thankful." Ruban said Chudzik had apparently driven about 20 feet on the tracks before his car became stuck. Witnesses reported seeing him put his car in reverse and try to back off the tracks, causing his tires to smoke. "That's when the gates started falling and bells started chiming," Ruban said. Just after Nugent led Chudzik to safety, an eastbound train pushed the vehicle about 100 feet, then a westbound train slammed into it, setting the car on fire. Police identified the good Samaritan as Dan Nugent of Chicago's North Side, who had been sitting in a coffee shop when told of the calamity that was about to unfold.**

What would you and I have done – would we put our selves in danger? As we look at the story of the Good Samaritan, a story we have heard and read so many times, let's consider the personal application as it applies to us today. I believe there are many principles taught in this story but we only have an hour (haha) so I want us to look at the 3 principles as they apply to us in how Jesus tells us to 'love our neighbor'.

- I. **Loving our neighbor involves compassion** (v. 33 – ‘took pity on him’)
- a. **The Priest and the Levite passed by on the other side – they avoided the injured man.**
  - b. **The Samaritan moves towards the man – compassion is more than a feeling, it is an action.**
    - i. **James 1:22** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.
      1. The priest and the levite were leaving Jerusalem – they had just been to Worship – they knew the Levitical law that told them to help your enemy’s donkey if he was lost or overburdened yet they didn’t help this wounded man.
      2. We know that we are to be compassionate and help others – but what do we do? We attend Church and we say “oh, yes, I will help – as long as it isn’t messy” – how long will you and I keep sitting in Church without learning how to ‘be doers of the word’?
    - ii. **Compassion asks, “how can I help” – what is it that you need? Sometimes that is obvious – like this wounded man who needed medical attention – but other times it is not quite so clear.**
    - iii. **Compassion isn’t necessarily convenient!**
    - iv. **Compassion is being committed to helping, not just giving lip service. Helping someone as you would want someone to help you or your child!**

II. **Loving our neighbor involves care** (v. 34 – ‘went to him and bandaged...’)

- a. The Samaritan stopped and took care of the wounds. He took the time, put the wounded man on his donkey and took him to an Inn and stayed with him through the night.
- b. The Samaritan not only moves towards the man but he stays with the man. He serves him, ministers to him – spends time with him.
  - i. **Matthew 25:** 34"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
    1. We are so busy with our lives – it is easier to write a check than give time. Notice that these all involve action – feeding, clothing, visiting.
- c. **Caring is compassion in action!**

### III. Loving our neighbor involves cost (v. 35 – ‘the next day he took 2 silver coins’)

- a. The Samaritan not only moved toward the man and stayed with Him but he made preparations and planned to check back. He gave his time and money – he took a chance that the inn keeper and the wounded man could rip him off – it involved cost.
- b. The Priest and Levite didn’t know if the man was a foreigner and if he had some disease – they didn’t want to take a chance that this man might be considered ‘unclean’ and they would have had to pay the cost. The Jewish law said that if the wounded man had been dead, that the priest would have been defiled and would not have been allowed to collect, distribute or eat tithes and his family and servants would have suffered with him. Common sense lets us see that the priest really had something at stake – his family’s well being. Or perhaps the priest and Levite both were afraid they would be accused of a crime – they weren’t willing to pay the price, to take the chance – the cost was too high!
  - i. How often in our society do we not approach because we don’t want to become entangled? We are told not to help someone because they might sue us – i.e. pulling someone out of a car – what if his neck or back are fractured?
  - ii. Story of Seminary students passing by the victim of an apparent heart attack.
- c. Luke 14:25 “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26”If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. 27And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”
  - i. **Count the cost** – are we willing to sacrifice our own lives, our own well being, the well being of our family? Now you know why Paul said it is better to be single – you only have your self to be concerned with.

Friends, the cost is great – but the reward is even greater! To whom much is given, much is expected. God has given you talents, abilities, gifts, resources – are you using these to help others. Are you a good Samaritan?  
Are you willing to sacrifice so that God would be glorified?