



The Good Samaritan

The story is found in Luke Chapter 10 verses 25 – 37

In Perth where I live, there is a charity called "Good Samaritan Industries" that recycles clothing, furniture and all sorts of things people donate. They do this so they can employ hundreds of people many of whom have a disability of some kind. The website guy helping me worked for "Good Sammy's."

This is another story that many people sort of know a little bit about today, and still use the term a lot today: "He (or she) is a Good Samaritan." A person who helps others - whoever they are and whatever race or colour or creed the person in need is.

The Story Context:



Samaritans were a branch of Israelites (Jews) and they both hated the other 'branch' and despised each other very much.

Why? Well in the politics of war and around the results of wars over some years, the people in Samaria got separated geographically, and married Non-Jews because it was easier to live that way.

Other Jews never forgave them because it broke God's laws. Both groups have hated each other since then ... they would not speak, eat or do business with each other - and it still goes on a bit today.



A Lawyer (a member of the 'Elite' and rich people) had asked Jesus: "How can I be sure of eternal life?" Jesus told him to follow the 'Laws of Moses' and "love your neighbour as you love yourself." Not really wanting to 'love some of his neighbours' the Lawyer asked: "And who is my neighbour?" In every group of people (People Groups) there are 'good' and 'not-so-good' people. Jesus knew this very well, so He told this story: 'The Good Samaritan.'

The Story:

"A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was set upon by bandits who robbed him, took his clothes and left him half dead by the side of the road."



Boy that paints a picture most people then would understand. There were no policemen on dangerous roads in Jesus' day and most travellers went in groups to be able to defend themselves against attack by bandits. Jesus then went on to tell how a Temple priest came by and saw the beaten-up traveller - and walked by on the other side of the road (or pretended he did not see him). Jesus also told them that a Levite - a temple helper - did the same thing - ignored him or pretended he did not see the injured traveller.

There is maybe, an 'escape' bit here, because even today, some countries use people pretending to be badly hurt, but they are not. When the kind helper comes over to help, they could be immediately 'jumped on' by concealed robbers - robbed of phone, wallet and bag - and then the robbers run off. A friend told me it happens in some countries today - she saw it! But in those days things were not so crowded and there was not seven billion people on the earth then, but travel could still be dangerous.



Then Jesus said; "But a Samaritan man came by and saw the beaten up traveller and had pity on him. He bandaged up his wounds, put him on his own donkey and took him to an Inn where he nursed him through the night.

In the morning he paid the Inn Keeper and gave him extra money (about two day's pay for an average worker) saying: "Look after him till he is better and I'll pay you any extra money it costs next time I come by."



Then Jesus said: "Which one of these three was a true neighbour (helper) to the one who fell among thieves?"

The Lawyer, not even wanting to say 'Samaritan', said: "Surely it was the one who showed mercy."

Jesus replied: "Yes, now you go and do the same." (show mercy to those who need it). Jesus was very good with stories.