



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 10: 25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Some things to think about...

The priest and the Levite were well respected men in Jesus' time and in positions of power. Why do you think they did not stop to help the injured man?

The Samaritan was considered an outcast by the Jews and hated by them, yet he stopped to help the injured man. Why do you think Jesus chose the Samaritan to be the hero of this story?

Who does Jesus say is our neighbour? What does it mean to be someone's neighbour?

Activity

Imagine the Good Samaritan story taking place in modern day times - perhaps in your local community or in your school.

Identify: Who would be the Priest? Who would be the Levite? Who would be the injured man? Who would be the Good Samaritan?

Would the Good Samaritan take the injured man to the inn or somewhere else?

Role-play (or draw a storyboard of) the Good Samaritan in modern day times.

Materials needed for the activity:

Students to role play the story

Teacher's Notes

This week's Gospel reading is the well known Good Samaritan parable. In this parable, Jesus is asked "Who is my neighbour?" and he sends us a clear message that it is through helping the someone we don't know who has been injured and left for dead, that we become a neighbour in Christ. We don't do it through the practice of rituals or through belief, but rather by reaching out to the needy, the outcast, the vulnerable. Being a neighbour to someone is not limited to family relations or proximity. It is showing the love of God to all who are in need, whoever they may be and wherever they may be. True 'neighbourliness' and love is put into action.

The choice of a priest and a Levite as the first two men who pass by the robbed victim is revealing because both are men of the Book, closely related to temple life, to the belief and faith of Jesus' time.