



Bringing Home the Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

July 10, 2022

“And Who Is My Neighbor?”

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

This question from Luke 10:29 posed to Jesus—“Who is my neighbor?”—prompts one of the most famous stories ever told with its equally famous lesson: A neighbor is one who I love as myself. A priest walked by the beaten and abused man. Even though he was someone dedicated to God and his worship, the priest didn’t have time to become his neighbor. Perhaps he didn’t want to risk ritual impurity by dealing with the bloodied body of this unknown man. Whatever his reasons, he had more important commitments than helping the poor.

A Levite, a member of the tribe in charge of the temple, wasn’t his neighbor either. He also found reasons to justify leaving this man to bleed to death along the road. Perhaps he thought someone else would stop and help. It’s easy to abdicate our responsibility.

Then a Samaritan, one disdained by the Jews, happened by. He stopped to help, lifted him up, carried him to safety, and paid from his own pocket for future care; he became totally involved. In an obvious sense, Jesus is telling us to be good Samaritans—that is, to be compassionate and generous to neighbors in need—not just people like us, but to aliens and strangers.

But on another level, perhaps we represent the wounded person by the roadside, in need of healing and restoration from sin. Like the Samaritan, Jesus was scorned by many. But it is Christ himself who wants to pick us up, bind our wounds, and pay for our care. And he pays this debt, of course, on the cross. Are we willing to admit that we need healing from a “Samaritan” like Jesus?

*A neighbor is one
who I love as myself.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders. And if we extend our gaze to the history of our own lives.... All of us have in ourselves something of the wounded man, something of the robber, something of the passers-by, and something of the Good Samaritan.

—Fratelli Tutti, Encyclical,
October 3, 2022



Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 30:10–14

[Moses said,] “No, it is something very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to do it.”

Colossians 1:15–20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Luke 10:25–37

[Jesus said,] “A Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How am I like the Good Samaritan?
- How am I like the traveler in need of healing?

A Great Spiral Staircase

Fr. Donald B. Willard, CSsR

When I was a student at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, my faith gradually came to life. Already I had a good sacramental life. I participated in the eucharistic celebration every day, experienced reconciliation weekly, and studied the Catechism. In short, I was a good Catholic. But at the university I had the opportunity to go with a group of students on a mission trip to Mexico. It was during this time that my faith began to really come alive. All of a sudden, the grace of the sacraments took on a new meaning. Not only was I working on my own salvation with the grace of God, but also I realized that the gifts I was given were gifts I could share.

I began to practice various ministries in my daily life: I assisted the poor, I was a reader and extraordinary minister of holy Communion, and I engaged in theological discussions and prayer with others. I even started teaching the faith in religious-education classes. As I became more engaged in living my faith, the meaning of the sacraments took on new depth—my spiritual life was transformed by my experiences.

Give More, Receive More

I recognized that the more I gave of my time, talent, and treasure, the more I received. Jesus told us that to give is greater than to receive, but it wasn't until I experienced sharing my faith in



words and deeds that I understood that offering up the gift of faith increases our own faith.

When we help someone in need, when we offer God's love, and when we permit the Holy Spirit to work through us, God touches the lives of real people. By seeing the action of God in the world, our desire to serve is intensified, our faith is enhanced, and our love for God and neighbor is increased.

That mission trip to Mexico afforded me the opportunity to put my faith into practice in a new way. Also, it allowed me to experience the faith of many people, and together we helped one another grow closer to the Lord. When

we live our faith through charity, our hope increases. The increase in hope makes our faith grow, and that allows us to do even greater works of charity. This pattern builds a great spiral staircase of virtue that helps to lead us to heaven. Faith without works may be dead, but faith with works reveals the love of God present in lives and produces fruit that will last for eternity.

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*Caring God, when we see
someone in need,
let us stop and be present
to the needs of that person.
Help us to become honorable
people doing honorable deeds
and be good neighbors
to one another. Amen.*

—From *Celebrating the Gospels: A Guide for Parents and Teachers*, by Gaynell Cronin

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 11–16

Monday, St. Benedict:
Is 1:10–17 / Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday, Weekday:
Is 7:1–9 / Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday, Weekday:
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16 / Mt 11:25–27

Thursday, St. Kateri Tekakwitha:
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19 / Mt 11:28–30

Friday, St. Bonaventure:
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8 / Mt 12:1–8

Saturday, Weekday:
Mi 2:1–5 / Mt 12:14–21