

October 13, 2020



The expression “**Good Samaritan**” comes from a New Testament **parable/story** (Luke 10:30-35) about a **Samaritan** man (a foreigner) who **stopped** to help a man who had been robbed and beaten and then **left to die** on the side of the road. Others had **passed him by**. The Samaritan was traveling somewhere, too. He likely had somewhere he needed to be. But he **stopped anyway**.

While reflecting on this story, I questioned what I would have done. Would I have stopped to help the injured man along the road? Or, would I have been too much in a hurry?

Jesus told this parable/story in response to a **question** from a lawyer: “**Who is my neighbor?**” By using the **Samaritan** as an **example**, Jesus shows that there are **no conditions to who is our neighbor**.

**The victim in the story is anyone, everyone!**

Today we refer to a **Good Samaritan** as:

- Someone who goes out on a limb to help others, even if they are complete strangers
- A compassionate person who unselfishly helps others, especially strangers, when they have trouble
- Someone who voluntarily helps someone else who is in distress
- A person that pays no attention to racial, religious, or social-economic categories

However, it is easy to be a **Good Samaritan** by **random acts of kindness**, such as:

- ❖ Holding the door open for someone pushing a stroller or in a wheelchair.
- ❖ Offering your help to someone who is pressured, even when you are, too.
- ❖ Thanking someone who you appreciate with a card, flowers, or candy.
- ❖ Asking the person who’s serving you how their day is going.
- ❖ Letting someone with fewer items go past you in the grocery line.
- ❖ Taking time to report a car accident.

Who are the good Samaritans in your life? Have you thanked them recently? How often do you take advantage of all the opportunities you have to be a good Samaritan by little acts of kindness in your family, at work or anywhere?

**Lord, help me to discern honestly my own gifts that I may do the things of which I am capable, and happily and humbly leave the rest to others. Good Samaritan, remind me constantly that I have nothing except what you give me, and can do nothing except what you enable me to do. Amen**