

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 **A priest and a Levite had passed him by**. The **Samaritan**, most likely, had somewhere he **needed** to be, **but he stopped anyway**.

The **Samaritans** are a religious sect of **ethnic Jews**. This community **differs** from mainstream Judaism by claiming that followers only accept the **five books of Moses** (Torah), and **not** the books of the **Prophets** or later texts.

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

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

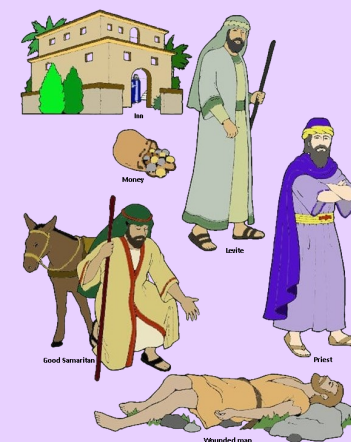
However, there are other ways of being a Good Samaritan by random acts of kindness, such as:

- ❖ Holding the door open for someone pushing a stroller, using a walker 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**? In what ways are you a Good Samaritan by little acts of **kindness** in your **family**, at **work** or **anywhere**?

How often do you take advantage of all the **opportunities** you have to be a **good Samaritan**?

**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**



Good Samaritan blessings!