

Service for Week 7th – 13th July 2025

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Living God, when illness and disability make life especially hard, remind us that you love and value all, not for what we do, but for who we are, and may that knowledge teach us to appreciate and respect the worth of everyone we meet.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 10: 25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan
On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
Holy words, Holy wisdom,
Thanks be to God.



Reflection

Today our reading is perhaps the most well known of the parables (stories with a message) that Jesus told to his disciples and followers. Jesus told this story to illustrate what he meant when he said we must 'love our neighbour' and to define who was our neighbour.

The stories that Jesus told were about things that were familiar to the people he was speaking to, and a feature of life then was the experience of travelling to a different town or village in a time when there was no public transport. Travelling then to perhaps visit your relations in a different town was full of danger. You could perhaps join a group travelling together in a 'camel train' but it usually meant walking, or riding a donkey on your own. This was very dangerous as robbers frequently ambushed and stole from lone travelers. In Jesus' story the man travelling to Jerico was robbed of his possessions, beaten and left for dead on the road. A priest saw him lying there but passed by on the other side of the track, then a Levite – one who worked in the temple, saw him but also passed by on the other side. Finally, a Samaritan came along and took pity on the man lying there. He bandaged his wounds, took him to an inn and gave the inn keeper money to look after him.

What is significant about Jesus' story is that the two men, the priest and

temple worker, that you and I would think would have stopped to help the man, ignored him and carried on walking. Jesus chose to make the person who did stop to help the man lying there bleeding and in pain by the side of the road, a Samaritan. Samaritans, were a mixed race of people from Samaria a region north of Jerusalem who were considered by the Jews to be pagan foreigners so would not normally have anything to do with them.

The story makes the point that the neighbour, despite prejudice about him being a pagan foreigner, is the person who showed mercy and stopped to help. He was acting as the beaten man's neighbour not the priest or the Levite who had ignored him.

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour, they may be not from our country, may have a different way of life than us, may not speak the same language as us, may have different beliefs than us, but is someone who needs our love and care. **Amen**

Closing Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you tell me that the whole law is summed up in the command to love. Give me the courage, faith and humility to let go of hatred and follow the way of love so it may shape my decisions, my attitudes and my life, to your glory.

Amen. Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett