

Everyone knows the story of the Good Samaritan.

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain [man] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded [him], and departed, leaving [him] half dead. "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. "So he went to [him] and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave [them] to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:30-37 NKJV)

There it is...the feel good story about how we tend to those in need.

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading [of it]?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-29 NKJV)

The lawyer's simple question "what do I have to do to obtain eternal life".

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV)

And love your neighbor has yourself.

'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I [am] the LORD. (Leviticus 19:18 NKJV)

Jesus Tells a story. It's a notoriously dangerous road.

It's like the world, a long road, treacherous journey, with thieves. (Satan)

And so there is this man, the victim. *This man is the Lost.*

The people who passed him by...we are not to hate them, they don't know.

These men represent the religious formula.

Now the Samaritan passes by, this is a picture of Jesus.

God's mercy is the answer...Jesus is God's grace.

In all actuality we are all the man in the ditch

The Good Samaritan looks like Jesus

Jesus is the hope in the eyes of the people we rarely look at.

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides [his] sheep from the goats. "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I [was] naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed [You], or thirsty and give [You] drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take [You] in, or naked and clothe [You]? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did [it] to one of the least of these My brethren, you did [it] to Me.' (Matthew 25:31-40 NKJV)

He is the one that was despised, rejected. But He came to save us.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10 NKJV)

God saw us in the ditch and had compassion, and sent Jesus came to save us.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12 NKJV)

The point of the story isn't what do I have to do for **God** to see me as good.

Anybody can be good.

It's the idea that an unwanted, rejected Samaritan is the one showing mercy.

Doing good is an act of feeling good about our self...

being the Church is an act of compassion.

It's Jesus that rescues the robed, broken and left for dead.

It's Jesus that picks us up from the side of the road.

And the church is the inn that gave refuge to the broken man.