

The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25 – 27
Compassion and Mercy: This IS the Way
First Pres. Leonia
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Outline

Introduction

- “How we use “Good Samaritan in every day life.
- How the term “ Good Samaritan has been used by President and Heads of State.
- How a resident in Africa needing aid used it.

But how did the audience listening to Jesus teach hear this parable?

- It meant more than love your neighbor; they already knew that commandment from the Torah. It had to mean more than that.
- The term “ Good Samaritan “ is offensive.
 - Think of Good Muslim-Not like the rest of them.
 - Good Immigrant
 - Good Jew.
- Rule of Three- Third one in a list is most important.
 - Lost coin, lost sheep, lost son.
 - Priest, Levite: What would the audience have wanted to hear as the third person on that list.
- Why didn't the priest and Levite stop?

Go and Do Likewise

- Not a singular act but a way of life, an ongoing relationship.
- Never in abstract but always in the flesh

Mercy

- Not deserved,
- Forgiving the unforgivable
- God is mercy- Go and do likewise.
- Micah: LOVE mercy not simply do mercy
- Story: a friend whose son was killed by a drunk driver.

Another way to hear this parable.

- We are in the ditch; God is the Samaritan reaching to us.
- Our culture has messages: We are not good enough.
- Sayings we say that seem irrelevant but that signal an attitude that holds our spirit down.
- We are called to accept from the bottom of our being the truth that we are accepted and loved – with all our pounds and pimples.
- Then nothing is the same; we live into the fullness of our birthright as children of God.

Doing what we can do.

- Naomi Shihab Nye, her poem “Famous”: