

Welcome

Call to Worship - 'Come in through His gates with thanksgiving
Enter His courts with praise
Give thanks to Him and praise Him
For the Lord is always good
He is always loving and kind
And His faithfulness lasts forever.' - *Psalm 100 v 4-5*

Hymn 110 - Glory be to God the Father

Glory be to God the Father
Glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit
Great Jehovah Three in One
Glory glory glory glory
While eternal ages run

Glory be to Him who loved us
Washed us from each spot and stain
Glory be to Him who bought us
Made us kings with Him to reign
Glory glory glory glory
To the Lamb that once was slain

Glory to the King of angels
Glory to the Church's King
Glory to the King of nations
Heaven and earth your praises bring
Glory glory glory glory
To the King of Glory bring

Glory blessing praise eternal
Thus the choir of angels sing
Honour riches power dominion
Thus its praise creation brings
Glory glory glory glory
Glory to the King of Kings Amen

Horatius N. Bonar (1808 – 1889)

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (sins)

Lord God, on this Your Day, let us shout out with great joy
and sing our hymns of praise with gladness.
For You are our God and we are Your people.
Let us meditate upon all that this means for us.
Let us focus upon You and upon Your greatness.

Lord, You have made each one of us, in Your own likeness.
You love us as Your children.
You have made us Your heirs, joint heirs with Jesus Your Son.
You are forever faithful to us Lord,
but we have not always been faithful to You.

Forgive us Lord, forgive us for our lack of faith and trust in You
We have let You down and we have let others down also.
We are so weak, yet You are so strong.
Help us Lord, give us Your strength.
Build us up in our faith.
Help us to show our love to You and to all those around us.

Make us aware of all the opportunities You will open up for us this week
Opportunities to put our faith into action
Opportunities to help those who are in need
Opportunities to witness for You
In our communities, in our workplaces and in our homes.

Let us not become downhearted.
Lift us up on wings as eagles
Renew our strength and fill us with Your Joy.

Receive now our offerings which we present to You
In gratitude for all that You are, all that You have done
And all that You continue to do in our lives.
Thank you Lord.

And hear us now as we pray together in the words which Jesus has taught us:

Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.

Bible Reading - Luke 10 v 25-37 (Kevin Heafield)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

²⁶ Jesus answered him, “What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?”

²⁷ The man answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’; and ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”

²⁸ “You are right,” Jesus replied; “do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. ³¹ It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. ³² In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw

him, his heart was filled with pity. ³⁴ He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he told the innkeeper, ‘and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.’”

³⁶ And Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?”

³⁷ The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.”

Hymn 137 - All things bright and beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful –
The Lord God made them all*

Each little flower that opens
Each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colours
He made their tiny wings
All things . . .

The purple-headed mountain
The river running by
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky
All things . . .

The cold wind in the winter
The pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden
He made them everyone
All things . . .

He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty
Who has made all things well
All things . . .

Cecil Frances Alexander (181 – 1895)

Prayer - (Irene McFadzean)

Father God, we thank you that we can come before you and pray together to praise you and worship you. You are a mighty God and a loving Father. You watch over us every minute of each day and you hear all our prayers. You know our every need – even the number of hairs on our heads are counted. We thank you Lord for the way in which you have looked after us this week and we thank you for all our answered prayers.

We thank you Father for your wonderful and perfect creation. Help us all Lord to be good stewards and to be mindful of how we look after your world. We pray that all world leaders and their countries will be more fully committed to reducing pollution. We pray that people everywhere will become more aware of how to reduce their own carbon footprints.

We pray that you would help all those who are running conservation programmes to look after species who are in danger of extinction – help them Lord to save these amazing creatures that you created for your world.

Heavenly Father, we come before you now to pray for others. We pray for those who have been bereaved and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Draw near to them at this difficult time and bring them your comfort Lord.

We pray for those who are ill at this time – whether at home or in hospital. We pray that you will give them strength during their time of illness and we pray that your healing hand will be upon them.

Gracious God, we pray for the Church in Nigeria who were, like us, celebrating Pentecost last Sunday when gunmen broke in and killed more than 50 worshippers. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ as they grieve over the loss of their church family members. Bring them your loving comfort Lord, draw close to them at this time and surround them with your love. And Lord, we pray that your Holy Spirit will change the hearts of those who are filled with such hatred against others.

Father, we pray for the people within our communities. We pray for those who are feeling low, for those who are feeling anxious and worried and for those who are feeling lonely. We pray that you will draw close to them and give them your peace. We pray Lord that you will help us to show your love and compassion towards those whom you will bring us into contact with during this coming week.

Help us, Loving Father, to follow in Jesus' footsteps. To show tolerance towards others when they have different views from ours – to chose words of encouragement rather than words which will hurt others – to show love and kindness to those who are in need - and to live our lives as true disciples of Christ so that people may catch a glimpse of Jesus and come to know Him for themselves.

We bring all our prayers before you in the name of Jesus,

Amen

Hymn 462 - The King of Love my Shepherd is

The king of love my shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am his
And He is mine for ever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

Thou spread'st a table in my sight
Thy unction grace bestoweth
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever

**Henry Williams Baker (1821 – 1877)
From Psalm 23*

Bible Teaching - Luke 10 v 25-37 'The Good Samaritan'

The Parable of The Good Samaritan - probably the best known of all Jesus' parables.

Let's paint the picture:

Scene 1 - A Jewish man is travelling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, a distance of some 17 miles.

It is a very dangerous road to travel and
Sure enough he is attacked by a band of robbers, who strip him of his clothes and leave him lying at the side of the road, half-dead.

Scene 2 - By chance a Jewish priest comes along, travelling in the same direction.

What does he do? Well he sees the injured man lying at the side of the road - but he does nothing!

Well that's not strictly true.

He crosses over to the other side of the road - to get away from the man!

Why? Should he not have helped a fellow Jew in trouble?

How could he be certain that this man WAS Jewish?

How could he know if the man was dead or alive.

If he was dead and the priest touched him then according to Jewish Law it would have made him unclean.

He would need to return to Jerusalem for an entire week in order to be purified.

If the man was alive, but later died, then the priest would still be in trouble if he helped him.

If the man was alive and NOT Jewish, then, according to the Law, the priest had no obligation to help him!

Added to all of this, what if the robbers were lying in wait for him?

What if this was a trap and he could be beaten and robbed?

All of these thoughts were going through the priest's mind.
What should I do, he kept thinking to himself?

In fact, his thoughts were ALL about himself and the consequences to HIM and NOT about the injured man and the consequences he might face.

And so eventually he makes up his mind,
he does nothing and crosses over to the other side of the road to avoid the injured man.

Scene 3 - A Levite comes along the road.

A Levite is an assistant in the Temple on Jerusalem, someone who helps the priests.

What does he do?

He goes over and looks at the injured man, but then, he too crosses over to the other side of the road!

Why? Perhaps he knows that the Priest is just up ahead of him on the road.
Perhaps the Levite is this Priest's assistant.

If his master had not helped this man, then, if he wanted to be seen as a loyal assistant, he must follow his example.

How could he, a mere assistant upstage a Priest? Surely the Priest knew the Jewish Law better than he did.

The Priest had ignored this injured man and so must he!

How could he tend to this man and take him into Jericho?
To do so would have been a great
insult to the Priest and he, as a Levite would have been in big trouble.

Once again the Levite was thinking about HIMSELF and the consequences for HIM
if he helped this man.

And so, he also does nothing to help.
He also crosses over to the other side of the road!

Scene 4 - A despised Samaritan comes along the road.

Who were the Samaritans?
They were the natives of Samaria,
the region between Galilee & Judaea.

They were very different from the Jews,
different in race, in politics, in customs and in religion.

And so there was much bad feeling between the Jews and the Samaritans - they hated each other!

Now this was not just Border rivalry.
This was not just Gala and Hawick!
This was not just Scotland and England!
This was more like Ukraine and Russia -

and even worse!

They really hated each other!

And so the appearance of a Samaritan in the story was a big surprise to Jesus' listeners.

None of them expected that the next person to come along would be a despised Samaritan.

If the story followed the normal pattern, the next person to come along the road would have been an ordinary Jew.

It would have followed the order of seniority: Priest then Levite, then ordinary Jew.

A bit like Minister then Elder then church member.

And so Scene 4 is a big surprise to the listeners.

A Samaritan is the last person they expected to feature in the story.

Kenneth Bailey in his excellent book 'Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes' makes a helpful comparison for us:

"The hero of the story is not a Jewish layman but a hated outsider.

I doubt if settlers in the American West told stories in the 19th century with 'a good Indian' as the hero of those tales."

And we will come back to that helpful comparison later on.

If Jesus had told a story about a good JEW who helped a wounded SAMARITAN then His listeners may just have managed to praise that good Jew - even though he had helped a hated Samaritan!

But a good SAMARITAN who helped a wounded JEW, especially after the Priest and the Levite had failed to help him -

Now that was unbelievable!

Back to the story.

How does the Samaritan feel when he comes across this injured man lying by the roadside?

"When he saw him, his heart was filled with pity."

He is filled with compassion for this man.

And he is moved to become this man's saviour, his rescuer.

And that is why many of the early 'Church Fathers', writers such as Origen, Ambrose & Augustine all identify the Samaritan as a symbol of Jesus Himself!

The One who came from outside to save us, to rescue us from the mess that we were in.

The One whom the prophet Isaiah tells us was: "despised and rejected.... but who died in our place.... so that we might be forgiven."

Scene 5 - The Samaritan goes over to the man. He soothes his wounds with wine and olive oil and bandages them.

In other words he gives him First Aid.

He meets this man's immediate needs.

This is 2,000 years ago! He can't 'phone on his mobile for an ambulance!

So he treats him himself.

He uses what he has with him.

He has no First Aid kit, so the bandages are probably made from his own clothes!

He graciously and kindly gives his time and his talents to help someone in need.

He doesn't know if this man is a Jew or a fellow Samaritan, or Greek or an Egyptian - and he doesn't care!

All he sees is a person in need of help and assistance and that's exactly what he gives him!

He does what both the Priest and the Levite failed to do!

Scene 6 - The caring Samaritan gently lifts the man onto his donkey and leads him slowly down to Jericho, where there is an inn.

He books them both into the inn and remains with the man throughout the night to keep an eye on him.

Now, once again this was not what Jesus' listeners were expecting to hear.

They were expecting to hear that the Samaritan took the man to the outskirts of Jericho, where he could be easily found and left him there for others to take care of him.

A Samaritan would not be safe in a Jewish town with a wounded Jew on the back of his donkey.

Community vengeance may be enacted against him, EVEN IF he had saved the life of the Jew!
He may have been stoned to death!

Kenneth Bailey tells us that : "He has read of and personally witnessed these grim realities in the Middle East."

So the Samaritan is a very brave man to take this injured Jew to the inn at Jericho

Once again he does what both the Priest and the Levite failed to do!

Scene 7 the final scene - The next day the Samaritan gives the innkeeper two silver coins - that is the equivalent of two days wages.

Now this would have been enough to pay for the man's food and lodging for at least a week and perhaps two.

He asks the innkeeper to look after the man and if it costs any more, he will pay him on his return.

He continues to show concern for the injured man and ensures that he will be well-taken care of.

Let's go back to our comparison with the Wild West.

Suppose an Indian finds a cowboy with two arrows in his back, puts the cowboy on his horse and rides into Dodge City.

He checks into a room over the saloon and looks after the cowboy through the night.

How do the inhabitants of Dodge City react to the Indian the next morning when he emerges from the saloon?

They would probably have killed him, even though he had helped a cowboy!

And that's the sort of danger the Good Samaritan faced when HE emerged from the inn that morning.

We don't know what happened to him.
We are left to supply our own ending to the story.

Was there an angry crowd waiting for him
or did he get away unscathed?
Whatever happened to him, the Good Samaritan put HIMSELF in danger in order to care for his fellow man!

He did all that he could to help someone in need. In fact he did MORE than was expected of him, even if he had been a fellow Jew!

In this parable, the Samaritan shows a love and compassion for others which is costly to himself!

And this is the love and compassion which Jesus Himself has shown us when He put HIS life on the line for us!

In complete contrast to both the Priest and the Levite, the Samaritan does not think about himself.

He does not think about the danger to himself, nor about what people will think about him, nor about his own reputation,
nor about his own needs.

He simply thinks about THIS MAN who lies before him needing help.

He thinks about the danger that this man is in.

He thinks about what might happen to him if he is left.
He thinks about THIS MAN'S needs and not about his own!

Dr. Martin Luther King writes: "I don't know WHY they walked by the man at the side of the road, but here's what I imagine:

Perhaps these men were afraid,
perhaps they said to themselves:
'If I stop and help this man, what will happen to ME?

But the Samaritan said:
'If I do NOT stop to help this man,

what will happen to HIM?

So it was the Samaritan who asked the right question!"

And Martin Luther King faced a similar situation himself in 1968.

The sanitation workers in the city of Memphis desperately needed his help.

And so he asked himself this question:

"If I don't go to help these workers, what will happen to them?"

And so Dr. King went to Memphis to help them - and it was there that he met his death!

The question which Jesus was asked was: "Who is my neighbour?"

But in this parable, Jesus poses an even bigger question to each one of us:

"TO WHOM MUST I BE A NEIGHBOUR?"

And the answer is:

"TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS ME!"

This very week God will give each one of us the opportunity to be a neighbour to someone.

He will put others in our paths - just as that injured man was put in the paths of three different people in this parable.

So when God puts someone in need in YOUR path this week,

You have two choices:

You can be concerned about YOURSELF!

OR You can be concerned about THEM!

You can be concerned about what will happen to YOU if you help them.

OR You can be concerned about what will happen to THEM if you DON'T help!

The Priest and the Levite were concerned about THEMSELVES and so they passed by on the other side.

The Samaritan was concerned about his FELLOW MAN and so he stopped to help.

Don't be like the Priest and the Levite.

Don't think about YOURSELF!

Be like the Good Samaritan.

Think about OTHERS!

Follow HIS example.

And follow the greatest example of all.

That of the Son of God Himself -

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ -

JESUS was concerned, not about Himself, but about you and me,
because WE needed help.

And that is WHY He helped us.

That is WHY He came to rescue us.

That is WHY He gave His life for us.

Jesus is OUR Good Samaritan!

Hymn 512 - To God be the glory

To God be the glory great things He hath done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord praise the Lord let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great things He hath done

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood
To ev'ry believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives
Praise the Lord praise the Lord . . .

Great things He hath taught us great things He hath done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder our transport when Jesus we see
Praise the Lord praise the Lord . . .

**Frances (Fanny) Jane Crosby (1820 -1915)*

Benediction - 'And now may
the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Love of God
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and forevermore.'

(3 fold Amen)