

SIX FACES ALONG THE JERICHO ROAD

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus' account of the Good Samaritan concludes with the question, "*Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him?*" (36), so most preaching and teaching on this concentrates on the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan, but that doesn't mean we should exclude the other characters in this narrative. Let's have a look at the whole cast.

I. THE HELPLESS MAN: THE "HALF-DEAD" VICTIM

A. Luke 10:30

No drama can have a resolution without a conflict, and in conflict there is usually a victim.

B. John 9:1-3

Victims of crime as in our primary text, or patients like this blind man, may wonder, or others may wonder about them, whether something was ever done to deserve the adverse circumstances they are beset with. No, but such adversity may present opportunity to glorify the Lord.

C. 2nd Corinthians 12:7-10

Praying for relief is good, but sometimes God's answer is in the negative, teaching us to accept and be grateful for the blessings already received, and further teaching us to find the strength of God through human weakness.

D. James 5:14

When some malady overcomes us, it is right to inform others and request prayer. It is a perverse pride which seeks to conceal an ailment and refuse to ask for help.

II. THE HARMFUL MEN: THE THIEVES

A. Luke 10:30

There is evil in this world which makes victims of underserving people. Such wicked people deserve to be recognized for their sins.

B. Romans 1:28-32

The cause of violence, malice, covetousness, and all wickedness is failing to “retain God in their knowledge”. Atheism and agnosticism lends itself toward immorality, but one need not be a professed atheist or agnostic to leave God out of their thinking. Every sinful deed is one preceded by forgetting God. Every sinner is, at least, a temporary atheist.

C. 1st Corinthians 6:9-11

Such sinners as thieves will be excluded from God’s eternal kingdom, but the good news is that even the worst can be washed, sanctified, and justified.

D. Ephesians 4:28

It’s not enough to just quit stealing. The thief must actually work for a living. More than that, every working man needs to include the needs of the destitute in his budget.

III. THE HEEDLESS MAN: THE PRIEST

A. Luke 10:31

A priest, as a religious leader in Israel, should have demonstrated exemplary behavior, but he paid no attention

B. Proverbs 28:27

To deliberately ignore the needy is to invite curses on oneself.

C. Hebrews 13:16

Sharing is something we are prone to forget. Hence the need for reminders.

D. James 4:17

Failing to do what we know is right is nothing less than sin.

IV. THE HEARTLESS MAN: THE LEVITE

A. Luke 10:32

Not all Levites were priests, just the sons of Aaron, but the rest had special ministerial duties. Accordingly, they, too, would have been expected to behave as model citizens. Sadly, this man was no different than the other.

B. 1st John 3:17-18

Choosing to withhold needed assistance proves one loveless.

C. Proverbs 21:13

Ignoring the needy is not without consequence.

D. Matthew 25:40-46

Jesus takes it personally when we fail to help those who are distressed.

V. THE HELPFUL MAN: THE SAMARITAN

A. Luke 10:33-34

The hero of this story is, of course, the Samaritan who tended to the victim's medical needs, transported him, sheltered him, and paid for his care.

B. John 4:9

It is a misnomer to identify every helpful stranger as a "Samaritan", for that overlooks the nuances of this event. Jews looked down on Samaritans, which is what makes this one's choice to intervene stand out, especially when other Jews, even leading Jews, chose to ignore the victim.

C. Matthew 5:43-48

Christ teaches us to love, treat well, and even help everyone, including our enemies.

D. Philippians 2:4

Mindfulness of others' needs reflects the attitude of our Lord.

VI. THE HIDDEN MAN: THE INNKEEPER

A. Luke 10:35

The innkeeper was paid for his work, but what reason did he have to trust the Samaritan would return and cover any overages in the man's care? He had to

help the poor victim without certainty that the costs would be paid. While the Samaritan is the hero of this event, the innkeeper's role, in the background is still important.

B. [Matthew 6:1-4](#)

Helping others without getting the credit is a principle Jesus carefully instills in His disciples.

C. [Ephesians 4:16](#)

In the body of Christ, some roles are more noticeable, but every part needs to do its share.

D. [Proverbs 19:17](#)

Lending to the Lord will yield dividends!