

The Good Samaritan

The **parable** of the Good Samaritan is a story which was told by Jesus and is recorded in the Bible. The famous parable can be found in the Gospel According to Luke in Chapter 10, verses 25-37.

What Is a Parable?

A parable can be used to teach people and help them to make decisions through the use of a story where the characters face a similar dilemma. Jesus used parables to teach people how God would like them to live.

What Happens in the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

The Gospel According to Luke tells us that, as Jesus spoke to his followers, a **lawyer** stood up to test him. When Jesus told the man that he should love his neighbour as much as he loves himself, the lawyer asked, "Who exactly is my neighbour?" That is when Jesus decided to use a parable to explain the concept.



Jesus told that, long ago, a Jewish man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho along a dangerous road. As he walked, two thieves jumped out onto the road and attacked him; they beat, stripped and robbed the Jewish man before running away, leaving him barely alive at the side of the road.



A short while later, a priest saw the injured Jewish man at the side of the road. Rather than rushing to help him, the priest crossed the road and passed by on the other side. A few moments later, a **Levite** also found the wounded man. Just as the priest had done, the Levite crossed the road and passed by the Jewish man.

Later, a **Samaritan** was walking along the road when he caught sight of the injured man. At the time, Samaritans and Jewish people did not like each other: each group of people tried to destroy the holy temples of the other. It would not have been expected that the Samaritan would help the Jewish man yet the Samaritan took pity on him.

The Samaritan poured oil and wine onto the Jewish man's wounds to treat them before wrapping them in bandages. He carried the injured man to his donkey and took him to a nearby inn. When they reached the inn, the Samaritan took two silver coins from his pocket and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," said the Samaritan. "When I return, I will pay back any extra money that you have spent."



When he had finished telling the parable, Jesus turned to the

lawyer and asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the Jewish man?"

"The one who had mercy on him," the lawyer replied.

"Go and do the same," Jesus said.

Did You Know...?

Today, the term 'good Samaritan' is still used to describe any kind person who helps a stranger in need.

Glossary

lawyer – An expert on the law.

Levite – A member of the tribe of Levi, who helped priests in the temple.

parable – A story used to show a moral lesson.

Samaritan – In biblical times, a person who lived in Samarian.

