



THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

People always gathered around Jesus and brought up questions about different issues. One day, a man approached Jesus and asked Him what he should do to be saved. Jesus answered this question with an important quote from the Bible: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul, with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** Jesus said that if he did all that, he would be saved.

The stranger was curious to learn who would be considered his true neighbor, so he could love him as himself. Instead of an answer, Jesus told the following parable.

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, he was attacked by thieves, who, after wounding him badly, departed, leaving him half dead.

By chance, a priest passes by the same road. He notices the wounded man but does not do anything to help; he leaves by changing his way.

After a while a Levite (a clerk of the Temple) passes by. He, too, approaches the man, sees that he is seriously wounded, but does nothing to help.

After a while, a certain Samaritan passes by the road. When he notices the wounded man, he feels pity and approaches him to help. After washing and bandaging the wounds, the Samaritan takes the wounded man to an inn. He takes care of him for a whole day. The following day, before leaving, he gives the innkeeper two silver coins, and asks him to take care of the wounded man. And if the money that he gave was not sufficient, he promises to give him more upon his return.

After telling this parable, Jesus asks the man: **“So tell me, which of these men behaved in a neighborly fashion?”** And the man answers: **“The one who took care of him.”** So Jesus says: **“Go and do likewise.”**

The last words that Jesus expresses here are meant for us all. We should all follow the good Samaritan’s example and help all those who are in need. Let us choose as friends, not the hypocrites, but those who help us when we are in trouble.

QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- 1) What was Jesus’ answer to the man seeking salvation?
- 2) Why did Jesus tell the parable of the good Samaritan?
- 3) What was the state of the traveler?
- 4) What were the reactions of the Jewish priest and the Temple clerk?
- 5) What did the Samaritan traveler do?
- 6) What should your behavior be toward others?
- 7) Do you know who your true friend is?
- 8) Tell about your friends during the class session.

TO LEARN BY HEART

**God of mercy, grant me
To come to You with an orthodox faith,
With good deeds and
Through the Communion of Your Holy Body and Blood.
Have mercy on Your creatures and
Especially me, a great sinner.**