



The Samaritans provides a 24 hour, 365 day confidential emotional support to those experiencing despair, distress or suicidal feelings.

The King will say, ... 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' *Matthew 25:34-40*

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

Loving others - as our neighbour



"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself." *Luke 10:27*

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there? *Song by Sydney Carter*

An expert of the Law questioned Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus answered him by asking another question, "What is written in the law? How do you read it? The expert answered Jesus by repeating, what is known as, the Two Great Commandments. Jesus replied, "You have answered correctly," do this and you will live." But the expert asked him another question to justify himself, "And who is my neighbour?"

Some questions to ponder

Who is our neighbour?

Is it just the people who live in our neighbourhood?

Is it those with whom we have a relationship?

Is it everyone in the whole world?

Can we love others if we don't love ourselves?

Bible focus

Jesus answered the expert's questions by telling a story, a parable, which is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning containing a special message for us and how we live our lives. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is about eighteen miles. The road is rough and steeply downhill. It's lined with jagged rocks where danger could lurk.

Please read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37



Some historical background to make this story even more amazing: there was a long history of hatred between the Jews and Samaritans. When the northern kingdom of Israel had been conquered by the Assyrians in 722/721 BC the Israelites were dispersed among many other countries and people from other races were brought

into the area. Therefore, the Samaritans were not pure Jews and were considered 'untouchables' by the Jews even though they worshipped the same God and viewed the five books of Moses, the Pentateuch, as their Scriptures. The Priest and Levite were both religious leaders who would have known the Scriptures and the command to love your neighbour as yourself [Leviticus 19:18] The tribe of Levi had been given a special priestly role and again historically there was a lot of animosity between the two groups. With all this in mind please re-read this story and perhaps wonder at the Samaritan who took such care of the man compared with the religious men who walked on by.

Teaching focus

By the neighbour, individual persons are meant who are to be treated each one differently according to the nature and amount of good that resides with a person. Thus good itself is meant, and therefore in the highest sense the Lord Himself since He resides in good and is the source of good; for good that does not originate in Him is not good. *Arcana Caelestia 3419:3*

Each individual is the neighbour. A smaller or larger community is more of a neighbour, one's country even more so. Even more so is the Lord's kingdom; and the Lord is the neighbour above all. In a universal sense the good proceeding from the Lord is the neighbour.

The New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for it 103

Charity towards the neighbour is thought to consist in giving to the poor, helping a person in need, and doing good to everyone. But genuine charity involves acting circumspectly and with the end in view that good may result. Anybody who gives help to some poor or needy person who is a wrong-doer does ill to the neighbour through him, for through the help he gives that wrong-doer he strengthens him in evil and supplies him the wherewithal to do ill to others. It is different with one who supplies help to the good. *Arcana Caelestia 8120*

Reflection/Meditation

Imagine that you are that man travelling along the rocky road, in an area of wilderness where danger lurks and robbers can hide behind the rocks ... How are you feeling? ... Suddenly a group of bandits appear from nowhere, beat you and steal your belongings and leave you injured and very frightened ... You lie there unable to move and then hear footsteps walking along. Looking up you see a priest moving along the road ... How do you feel now? He walks away from you and hurries on ... You lie there wondering what will happen to you when miraculously you hear other footsteps coming towards you ... perhaps the priest has returned with help ... but no, it's a Levite. He'll help me, you think, he knows how to behave, he knows all the commandments ... What utter disappointment you feel when he also hurries away ... Surely you will die out here ... there's no-one to help. You close your eyes and give up hope of rescue

You are spoken to gently by a caring, loving voice, he comforts you, pours oil and wine on your wounds and bandages them ... He gently carries you, places you on his donkey. and leads you to an inn where he comforts and cares for you ... Soak up that wonderful feeling of love and comfort.

Next day your carer instructs the innkeeper to look after you till you are healed and well enough to leave.

Say a prayer of thanks to your Heavenly Father for His love and care for you.

Experience

Two organisations have used the message of the Good Samaritan to form charities to serve people.



It is an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God. They provide spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world by sending shoeboxes of gifts overseas at Christmas and working on issues like water and sanitation, HIV and AIDS, sustainable livelihoods along with disasters and emergencies.