

# The Good Samaritan



One of the most famous parables, the Good Samaritan, radically transformed the idea of a good neighbour and redefined the boundaries of love for humans. It is found in the Gospels written by Luke, Matthew and Mark.



In Jesus' time, there were distinct groups among the Jews who proclaimed themselves as the guardians of Moses' laws. They claimed to be superior and more religious than the ordinary men and women. They also took pride as observers of practices handed down to them by the prophets. Obviously, for such proud people only a fellow Israelite or Jew was their neighbour.

But Jesus made the love of God and the love of neighbours binding upon all people. He knew that the Jews did not consider the Samaritans as their equals. But by narrating the simple story of a Samaritan coming to the rescue of an injured Jew, who was ignored by a Jewish priest and a Levite as he lay by the roadside, Jesus demonstrated that the two can become good neighbours and form an everlasting bond through human concern and love. The noble behaviour and actions of the Good Samaritan made all the difference, and gave birth to the ideas of charity and agape adopted by true Christians in serving the poor and needy across the world.

Jesus invites people of all hues to rise above their differences and shun prejudices to help and love each other without any limits or conditions. He asks them to love one another as He loves each one.

He wants people to be thankful for God's true love so that it may touch their hearts and fill them with concern and compassion for all of humanity.



## Word of God

**Luke 10: 31 – 34, 36 – 37**

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. 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. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. 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. And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

## Insight

Pope John Paul II, who is the most widely travelled pope in history, visited India twice. In February 1986, he was on a 10-day apostolic tour to India when he visited Mumbai, Delhi,

Kolkata, Goa, Pune and Kerala and other places.

He also met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, and Mother Teresa in Kolkata. In November 1999, Pope John Paul II visited India again when he met President K. R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



## Notes

**Know  
Now**

**QUOTE:**

**“On the parable of the Good Samaritan: “I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But by the very nature of his concern, the Good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’” Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**

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