

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
8th Sunday of Luke
Parable of the Good Samaritan

Read the Gospel Passage. Luke 10:25-37

Contextual Background:

-The road going between Jerusalem and Jericho was very dangerous as many thieves hid there to attack defenseless travelers. Travelers were vulnerable making this trip.

-A Levite is a member of the tribe of Levi who assisted the priests in the Jewish Temple

-There's a few laws at play in this reading. The first is when the lawyer answers Jesus saying he knows the greatest law is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" which is from Deuteronomy 6:5

(Deuteronomy means "The Second Law"). The other important law in this reading is a "cleanliness law" coming from Numbers 19:11, stating "Whoever touches a human corpse will be unclean for seven days". We know from this reading that the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho was "left for dead", and so anyone seeing him might hesitate before inspecting him.

-We know that the Samaritans and the Jews had nothing to do with one another. They were unfriendly towards one another because of their differences.

Discussion Questions:

1. What might have been some reasons the priest and the Levite did not help out the robbed man (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. They were in a hurry to get to the Temple
 - b. They didn't want to be bothered
 - c. They were on a very dangerous road where robbers frequented
 - d. They thought the man was already dead and knew the Law prevented them from touching a dead body

2. What might be some possible reasons the Samaritan stopped and helped a Jew, someone whom in any other context may not have even stopped to talk to him? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. The man was hurt, so it didn't matter to the Samaritan who he was
 - b. The law of cleanliness wasn't as important to him as was the law to love God and to do good to his neighbor
 - c. He knew what it was like to be hurt and have others pass by
 - d. Other Answers?

3. After reading this parable, whom would you say is your neighbor? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. Any person in need
 - b. Those I'm most afraid of helping
 - c. Everyone—even my enemies
 - d. Other Answers?

4. When have you ever felt like the following? (DISCUSSION)
 - a. Jesus—under pressure to provide the right answer or debate
 - b. The Lawyer—trying to prove someone wrong
 - c. The mugged victim—bullied or ignored
 - d. The priest or Levite—too busy or too afraid to help someone
 - e. The innkeeper—constantly being asked to take care of someone
 - f. The Good Samaritan—helped someone or did the right thing even if it might have been dangerous or cost you something

5. The Samaritans had a bad reputation and were often looked down upon. When have you felt looked down upon or discounted? (DISCUSSION)

6. Who has been a Good Samaritan in your life? (DISCUSSION)

7. We may not encounter robbers on a daily basis, but who are some people we might need to help in our lives “between Jericho and Jerusalem” and how might we help them? (DISCUSSION)