

THE MODERN SAMARITAN:

THE TRULY HELP MINDED SERVANT OF JESUS

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“Helping people is a fundamental requirement in all Christian living.” It is a direct command as strong as baptism and or love. Jesus said to all of us, through the writing of John, in John 15:12, “...This is my commandment, ‘Love each other, just as I have loved you...” It is very direct and very plain, but what does it really mean? ...in real; terms, ...on a day to day basis? Now it is on this level of loving like Jesus loved us, that we have to come face-to-face with the realities of just what “helping” is.

We all are aware of the story of the “Good Samaritan”, a desired race by Jewish standards of that day. Some of these standards are historically based and some are dietary based, and even some are more religiously based, with some being possibly just plain old geographically based.

However, it was a simple, unidentified man, of a regionally disreputable faction, one that was utterly despised by the higher classes of the Jewish people, that went and helped a fellow human being, which holds the central spotlight for all righteous behaviour among all religious practitioners, in all religions of this world. It was not one of the scholars, nor the literati, and not a die-hard legalist, nor one of the other, highly defined people who looked to what the Law of Moses said, that day. It was the Samaritan. “Helping” was, and still is, seeing a need and actively working to alleviate the suffering and apply a realistic remedy to that individual who is in real need, right then. “Helping” is not the bandaging up of wounds, applying of ointments, nor the paying of the bills incurred in the process of helping, however !!!! Helping is going where no one else is willing to go, inspire of the difficulties and inconveniences to be encountered in the going process. Helping is not about being ‘right’ by the expressed rules of the religious authorities in power at that moment, but it is in loving so selfishly that rules are not the guiding factor but ‘love’ is. This is exactly what Jesus did on the cross of Golgotha: Jesus was sinless and thus free from the rule having to die for ones own sins, but He loved us so much that He went and died for us, in our stead, on that hunk of Roman wood !!! That is the very essence of ‘true servanthood’ and ‘true sacrifice’. It is the helping ideal that we need to strive towards, 24/7.and it was a Samaritan who did it !!!!

...And where was those ‘upper pew, moral high commissioner’ of all perceived sainthood’, when the man was lying there, bleeding out? They were diverting their gaze and staying safe behind the rules that they had concocted for convenience sake and sanitation from disease, on the other side of the road. The Law of Moses has no laws that speak to bleeding wounds of enemies, or casual acquaintances, - does it? How cruel we are in the pursuit of pure-purity, and its lily white standards. My, My, My how callous we become when the laws and rules stop talking about the real situations in life, and we are left with no verse to sustain us. Remember, we are not saved by the rule, but by the grace and compassion of one who came across the road for us.

The fearful and the cowardly will always be with us. But that ol' Samaritan is long dead, and yet he still helps us. Why? How? Well, if truths got told truthfully, we are the one lying on the road. Most often we focus on those who walked by on the other side of the road, or on the Samaritan, himself. But, this time, let us focus on the fellow on the ground that was the first victim of this vicious attack.

What would you want to have done for you and your wounds? "Well get them all fixed up, of course !!" That is the first and most reasonable response. But, thinking more long term, 'What dignity are you actually willing to die for, on your journey, in the first place?' We might even need to give some time to the question, "What laws are you willing to set aside in a situation where it is impossible to bring up the baptism wagon, get the fellow inside it, fill it with water, teach him and then baptise him, - all while those brigands, crooks, thieves and religious lawyers are still at large and roving about? These brigands are the real opposition, the real antagonists here. These despicable ones need the message of salvation preached to them, just as much as the Samaritan did, let alone having their wounds looked after, under the competent guidance of a ready, willing and knowledgeable, trained person. [It has often been noted that the best capital case lawyers are other prison inmates who are also awaiting their fate. These convicted minds have enough time and restrictions placed on them, to keep their noses in a book because their necks will depend on it!]

What if the man on the ground was there because he had stumbled and fell and stubbing his foot on a stone in the road, scraped his knees? There is no passage on this common scenario in the various law codes that we abide by. either. Hmmm, another 'stumbling block' for us, perhaps??? {Please pardon the poor pun here.....stumble-stumbling.}

In the streets of Coffs Harbour, NSW, right after I had my stroke, I fell on the Main Street and not one of the hurrying crowd of white Anglo-Saxon upper echelon people offered to help me get up. I was really struggling to get in my car. An older aboriginal man saw me fall and made his way over to me, retrieved my wheels walker, and helped me get into my car. When I was in the car, he said to me, "Brother, are you okay?"; to which I replied that I was, but just needed to rest a few minutes. He said as he left my rolled down window, "Okay! Stay up, and go get some rest." I did as he suggested. He offered me no money, but he helped me retrieve my dignity and footing. He was a true Samaritan. I never learned his name, but his face and help, will stay with me for a life time, I think.

The giving of a bandage, a plaster, does not cure a hurt totally. It took his heart, his time, his attention, and his willingness to come over and offer to help. So, with his encouragement to stand allowing me to regain my dignity-courage, to get up and go home. Let us give courage to people. Let us give courage to help people. Let us help people to help themselves. Let us listen to people, honestly, with both ears open. They just may need some time to collect themselves, also, -before driving on.