

The Good Samaritan.....It's so.... familiar to our Western culture
I would even go so far as to say that it's embedded in the Western psyche

For example in 1990 when Princess Diana died in the car crash
I remember that some of the photographers were initially held for a time by police because
in French law there is a "Good Samaritan law"
Which says that you must stop to help someone in distress
No that's really amazing, because even in France, whose government is officially secular,
they have a law with such a Biblical title

What is this parable about? Being a nice person, doing good..helping others? Is that
what this parable is about? Is it about earning brownie points so we can get to heaven?

What is Jesus telling us about? Remember – we're learning what it means to be
disciples, to be followers of Christ
And it is important to note that it was a "scholar of the law" that asked this question
This will come up later

The scholar asks the question, the legal question... "Who is my neighbor?"
Again he is wanting to make a distinction about "the law..."

Then Jesus tells this story.... And there is an important detail that Jesus' contemporaries
would have understood
And the scholar of the law would have implicitly understood
But that we might miss.... Jesus throw into this story a legal dilemma

Both the priest and Levite would have been heading to Jerusalem to perform their priestly
duties
UNDER THE LAW.... If the priest or Levite touched the man, if he was dead, then they
became ritually unclean.... Meaning they could not enter the Temple or perform their
duties... so.....No pay... What will the family do?

Better not chance it..... **Better be safe**

Why bother... a lot of inconvenience. When you bother to get involved
When you bother to move beyond your comfort zone

It's like those Catholics who think that by going to Church on Sunday
Putting in their 1 hour....God forbid it should be more than an hour
That that means they're doing fine. They can go on gossiping about others, they can
cheat a little and tell a few lies, and maybe get away with some what they think "minor
infractions.." And they're still a good Catholic
After all... you don't want to take all this stuff too seriously!

STORY

It's like the priest who was cleaning up the office when he noticed a box on one of the shelves. When he opened it, to his surprise, it contained three chicken eggs and ten one-dollar-bills. He asked the nun who worked in the office about it. Sister looked at Father and seemed a little embarrassed. But then she told the priest that every time he gave a bad homily she put an egg into the box. "Well," I said, "I guess I am doing OK." "I've probably given well over a hundred homilies and only three eggs for bad homilies." Then he asked her about the ten one-dollar-bills. She swallowed and said... "Every time I got together a dozen eggs, I sold them to the poor for a dollar!"

The moral of the story is that we may not always be doing as well as we think

And that's the point Jesus is trying to make!!!!

The priest and Levite in today's Gospel thought they were doing great
But they were wrong. Do we think we're doing OK? Is that all we're aiming for – OK?
If we are, then Jesus is saying to us, you cannot be my disciple

Or are we aiming for passion? Holiness?
Do YOU know what the Church looks for when it canonizes Saints?
Not a perfect life.....Nobody's got one... Not were they nice to everyone...No....
Not even that they never sinned.... Wrong again...

NO.. the Church looks for HEROIC VIRTUE.... What does that mean? PASSION
THEY LIVED WITH INTENSITY. THEY EXAMINED THEIR LIVES AND SAID
TO THEMSELVES.....**I CAN GIVE MORE!!!!**

**They were willing to go all the way!!! To take the extra step....To go the extra mile
They weren't satisfied with mediocre**

**Jesus is asking us today... do we think we're doing OK? Are we satisfied with
where we're at?**

Jesus spoke to the church in the Book of Revelations
"You are neither hot nor cold... so I will spit you out of my mouth"
Pretty strong language... but He means it.

What's the lesson for us as disciples? God will come along regularly and provide
opportunities for us to be inconvenienced....Mess up our schedule. The unplanned
Maybe we've got our day planned and then we get the telephone call...
Maybe we see someone who needs help... but we had other plans, important plans....
Are we going to go out of your way?

A interviewer/media person commented one day to Mother Teresa during an interview
"I wouldn't do what you do for a million dollars" Mother snapped back: "I wouldn't do
it for two million dollars, but for my Lord Jesus, I would do anything..."

That's what being a disciple means...Means not my plans but God's plans
The Good Samaritan did not base his actions on the written law. Anyone can use the law to his/her advantage. **He based his actions on the Law within his heart the Law of Love**

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

St. Therese of Lisieux, one of my favorite saints wrote this in her autobiography called "The Story of a Soul."

"After earth's exile, I hope to go and enjoy you in the fatherland, but I do not want to lay up merits for heaven. I want to work for your love alone. . . In the evening of this life, I shall appear before you with empty hands, for I do not ask you, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is blemished in your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in your own justice and to receive from your love the eternal possession of yourself."

Notice what St. Therese says near the end *"I wish to be clothed in YOUR justice..."*

What's our standard?

My idea of justice? Or God's?

How are we going to live? According to our standard.. or God's?

Jesus is telling us today that if we want to be His disciple, then we better begin to look at life through HIS eyes... and see things through HIS vision
And judge according to HIS standard...

God bless,
Fr. Dennis