



## 8th Sunday of Luke

### The Reading is from Luke 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

### Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

### Discussion

Look at the icon at the top. It is said that icons are written, not painted, because they tell a story. This icon truly tells about the parable.

St. Theophylactos calls arrogant, proud and dectetful for testing Jesus. But Our Lord is so lovinv and patient with him (and with all of us) that He leads the lawyer to truly understand the God's law.

First, only one out of three persons help the man who was robbed and beaten. Thus, most of us, given the chance will likely not act like the Good Samaritan. The most common reason for ignoring those in need is that we are too busy. We have other things to do that are more important. Remember what we said about the Rich Man and Lazaros (Luke 16:19-31)? The rich man did not actively hurt or harm Lazaros. Like the priest and Levite today, the rich man last week committed the sin of omission, the sin of apathy, the sin of doing nothing.

The second lesson of today's Gospel reading is that religion is not just to be practiced inside the walls of a temple or a church but on the roadside as well. An atheist once asked a poorly dressed person, "If God is love, how come He didn't tell someone to give you clothes and shoes? The person thought for a moment and replied, "I guess God told somebody and that somebody forgot." The priest and the Levite forgot to love your neighbor as yourself.

The third lesson is that wounded people are all around us, all the time. However, they are not only suffering physically. Most people who suffer do so on a mental, emotional and spiritual level. One could argue that by expanding the definition and types of suffering, almost all of us are hurting for one reason or another.

Another lesson in the story of the Good Samaritan is the definition of neighbor. The lawyer asked, "And who is my neighbor?" (v.29). St. Theophylactos amplifies what Our Lord teaches by pointing out that the Greek word for neighbor is literally "one who is close".

We were robbed, stripped and beaten by the devil. We were doomed to death and sin. Jesus is our Good Samaritan, who saw us and had compassion. He stooped down to us in His birth from the Virgin Mary. Jesus carried us on the Cross, to His crucifixion and death. He healed us through His Resurrection from the dead giving us the oil of Chrismation and Uncction. Jesus continues to heal us through the eternal offering of Himself in the wine of the Eucharist. He brings us to the inn of the Church, the hospital for all those who suffer.

The video covers some good thoughts about our attitude towards others:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/be-the-bee-148-do-we-act-like-christians-?inheritRedirect=true>