

**The Story:**

The road was just the same as any other day, but he had a strange feeling that someone was watching him. He knew the road and kept walking, ignoring his paranoid feelings.

The whack across the back of the head thundered his senses. Reality - and fists - struck him. He was getting mugged by a bunch of hoods. He was so stunned that the shock held him defenseless when they ripped off his clothes, stole everything he had, and beat him until he was almost dead. He lay there motionless, groaning, and unable to help himself. He could hear footsteps and saw the silhouette of a priest coming his way, so a deep sense of hope entered his oozing bloodstream. Just when he thought he would feel the warm hand of help, he got the cold shoulder of rejection when the priest ignored him and walked over to the other side of the road, leaving him helpless.

He felt this kick even deeper than the people who beat him to the state he lay in. Just when life seemed at its worst, another person came along. But he too crossed the road - walking the path the priest had previously blazed. The man resigned his mind to accept this lonely, undignified death. The noise of the road ebbed and flowed in his dulling mind. He was fading fast. The footsteps of a stranger approached, but he accepted the inevitable - he was beyond hope.

He re-entered the conscious world while being bandaged and helped by a stranger. The man lifted him up to lie across his own donkey and took him to a safe place to recover. This busy business man helped the man through recovery that evening at a local hotel and left an open tab for the man to get the best treatment necessary, then left the next day to continue his journey.

**Read More ||| Luke 10:25-37**

- Have you ever seen something horrific like this?
  - + How often do you think something like this happens in our society?

Jesus told this story in response to someone's question. Jesus had been teaching people to love their neighbor as themselves when an expert in the law confronted Jesus by asking, "And who is my neighbor?"

- Why do you think Jesus told him this story, instead of giving him a more straightforward answer?

+ Why do you think the man was asking this question?

+ What conclusion do you think the man came to after hearing the story?

Jesus often told stories to show people how warped their thinking was. He needed to re-educate the way they viewed things. He knew this man was trying to work out whom he should serve and whom he should ignore. Jesus drew him to the reality that he was asking the wrong question. Jesus was showing him that it was more about him becoming a good neighbor, rather than trying to work out who his neighbors were.

- Do you think this story is relevant to be told to people in today's culture?

+ Do you think there are a lot of people asking the wrong questions today?

Almost everyone has a tendency to try and rationalize his or her behavior and to follow some sort of accepted standard. Jesus taught that life is not found in trying to follow a standard. He was more interested in bringing an internal change to people that would have an overflow into their normal lives. He wants to draw out the good stuff He has invested in us that brings real life and spontaneous acts of service.

Quite often in life, we ignore people who need help and presume someone else watching will help (or presume that there is someone more qualified than us that can help). When we see someone in trouble, our automatic response should be to pull over and meet the obvious need. We should presume that we are the only one who will help or we will rationalize reality away. The Bible teaches that we are the hands and feet of Jesus today. God is with those in trouble, waiting for a pair of hands to use. No business should become more important than helping someone in trouble.