

The Good Samaritan

It is easy to extend the metaphor of the Good Samaritan, as we refer to the parable today, and distort the meaning of the story. Jesus taught that there were two great commandments – Love the Lord they

God and Love thy neighbor as thyself for the love of thee. The Good Samaritan is therefore a story about loving one's neighbor. Too often we sell as our Christian faith that we should blindly accept all as a measure of obedience to God's love, however, are all in obedience to God?

It is one thing to spare the life of another in distress and it is another to spare the life of one whose beliefs are frankly, polluted. I do not believe that Jesus intended that we should accept into our fold those whose worship is a matter of stolen scripture and fraud, as is the case with Muslims. I bring no bodily harm in refusing pollution within my house and within my nation!

In this age we have seen a distortion of Jesus' word and the Bible to the point where by the very act of accepting these alien faiths, our own faith is diminished in value. If one reads the Bible there is much written in the Old Testament that points to the failure amongst the Jews to keep their house clean and free of worship that in God's eyes is equivalent to worshipping Satan or idols for He does not recognize them as His people, though He will provide for and use them as He deems necessary to His plan (Jeremiah). It is this point where we are challenged to see the truth of these alien faiths and not welcome them into our homes because they are an affront to God.

Did God, bless them with the blessings the Christian nations have enjoyed over the last one thousand years? Are we to negate the history of our people and our progress as not of God's will? Do we see in history parallel progress to ours amongst these alien faiths? Is it not true that as a result of our missionary work, these worlds began to evolve to the state God had blessed us with, as a result of that missionary work?

The current barbaric practice of stoning people in Iran, for example, has reached international significance. Where are the shepherds in preaching from the pulpits how despicable this act is given what Jesus did with the adulteress? Would not that be the appropriate Samaritan response rather than acceptance of Islam as a part of God's will?

Either one is a Christian or not. Jesus said, you cannot serve two masters, and certainly our current dialogue that attempts to embrace all without respect to the details of one's beliefs, begs the question, How far are we willing to whore ourselves to our enemies before we have completely dissolved the meaning of our church?

If you are in some type of physical distress like the victim of the robbers I will help first not ask first what you believe, however, I will not, and cannot, accord to you when not in such a condition, blanket amnesty and acceptance. I am appalled that our churches have become so foolish that they reject the overwhelming lessons of our Bible in favor of a position that is a stench in God's nostrils!

Yes Jesus said love your enemies – love them by preaching His word and working for their conversion, not by converting to their methods of discounting the fine distinctions of faith that God, our Father chose that we should follow. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were not a nullification of the Old Testament, nor a nullification of God our Father. Jesus said, I have come not to nullify the law but to fulfill it, so how is it that we now interpret that fulfillment as abandonment of the lessons of the Old testament that have nothing to do with circumcision, cleaning of plates, specific foods to eat etc?

I always come back to the point that far too much emphasis has been placed on the teachings of Paul over Jesus Christ as if Paul, a converted murderer, were more informed? More Saintly? Where in the Old Testament is it written of him? Indeed he did the political work necessary to expand the faith, but again, should his word and concepts override the gospels of Jesus? Jesus clearly in his lessons about the Pharisees was talking about how they confused the values of faith with ritual, and while Paul makes a stab at understanding Jesus' concepts, his arguments take us back to the rituals with the rules he imposes as a measure of keeping faith. While Paul served a purpose, my love of Jesus' teachings come precisely from the fact that one does not need the church, one needs the daily contemplation of Jesus' words and of the Bible to keep one closer to God and closer to gaining God's favor as well as increasing one's own understanding of oneself in relationship to Him.

Some look at the pursuit of God's favor as wrong – I am astonished at the disingenuousness of anyone so saying, since why do you pray or practice faith except for the purposes of seeking the protection of God? We can never escape our selfishness in faith; we can only learn to tame our egos to objectively view our requests to the Father and accept His will regardless of the outcome of our requests. The latter is the beginning of faith, not the mastery of it.

I am not calling here, either, for an abandonment of church attendance, for those who fail to at least once a week bow before God in a place designated for worship, fail to concede their temporary inferior status to the Lord and thus have not faith at all.

Faith and belief are two distinctly separate entities. When one has faith, we demonstrate it through prayer, devotions, and celebration of the mass to give thanks for the blessings we are given, in spite of, our failings and flights of ego. Belief, is when we talk and apply concepts within our minds, we write checks for donations, but we live in a separate reality that does not connect to faith by exercising the moments of truth – such as in the sacrament of confession – where we humble ourselves before God and repent thereafter by doing more than talk – we work to minister, to preach the good news, to share the love of God with everyone we can, to engage in Samaritan acts more often, and to persistently remind ourselves that we are not greater in the eyes of God because of any gift He gives us, though to others that may appear to be the case, that rather, we are His servants, and when, as Jesus taught us, we engage others as a servant to them, we are acting in likeness to the love of our Father.

We cannot be Samaritans if we exclude in non life-threatening circumstances the necessity that Jesus be received by those we encounter – otherwise, it is okay to figuratively shake the dust off of your feet – especially in this day and age when all is available to everyone for conversion! When people reject Christ, they are rejecting our Father, who is the one and true God and Creator of this universe. Feel uncomfortable with that truth? Can't accept that truth? As I always say, then please, enlighten all of us as to the birth time of any star precisely and to whom we may ascribe its genesis?! I am okay with accepting my small role in the universe, are you?