

TITLE AND NUMBER: 88. Neighbour: helpful or harmful?



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Luke 10: 25-37

Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" (v30-35)

LOOKING FURTHER: Luke 10: 25-37; Exodus 20: 2-17; Galatians 5:14

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, Jesus uses an unforgettable story to answer the question 'who is my neighbour?' and explain a very difficult spiritual question.

An expert in religious laws wanted to test Jesus, possibly 'to catch him out' somehow. So Jesus told the story of a man who was beaten up and was helped by the compassion of a foreigner. Those people who he expected to help him did not - they walked past him. The foreigner did all he could to take away his pain and paid for him to be cared for. Without a doubt, the person who showed mercy is the good neighbour of whom Jesus spoke.

Jesus calls us to be good neighbours to anyone we come across. What sort of neighbour are you?

Six out of the Ten Commandments given by God are clear instructions on how to treat others (Exodus 20: 2-17). In fact, Jesus sums up the whole law in a single command: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)

Reflections:

- Think of a time when you experienced the kindness of a stranger. Remember to thank God for it.
- Does any of your behaviour cause or spread harm? If so, ask God for forgiveness.
- Think of a situation in which you can be a good neighbour to someone this week.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

