

Who is my neighbor?

In Luke chapter 10, an expert in the law asked this question to Jesus. To answer him, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.

...A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers, who left him half dead after beating him and stealing his clothes. Jesus first tells of the priest and the Levite who saw the man in distress and chose to pass on the other side of the road. Then he told of the Samaritan who saw the man in distress and chose to approach him, help him, and even tried to ensure he was taken care of in the future...

It may not be often that we encounter those who have been physically beaten up, but certainly we hear Jesus saying in verse 37 that we should react like the Samaritan. Have we encountered people who have been beaten and stripped spiritually? Stripped of their dignity? Their self-confidence or self-worth? In these all too common situations we also should act like the Samaritan, not like those who saw the distressed and went around them. There are lots of ways people can be in distress. May we listen to Jesus' "Go and do likewise" and be good neighbors to those around us.

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