



The Compassion of a Samaritan

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This compilation is not a book, nor an edited piece, it is a compilation of my personal devotional time either in the morning or during my afternoon meditations. I am praying that you will find the compilation a blessing regardless of the typing and grammatical errors.

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Luke 10:25-37, Proverbs 27:17

One of the things learnt at MLR was the need to be a friend of God. It's in my friendship with God that I'll be able to meet the needs of my many midnight friends.

The lawyer in this story of the Samaritan man pretended he didn't know who his neighbour was. And Jesus knew his pretence, yet He still took time to explain. I see that recovering all will need me to be persevering just as the Lord was with this lawyer. If Jesus had refused to answer this question, I would never have had this parable of the Samaritan to go to.

Since this is made available to me as Jesus responded to the hypocritical response of this lawyer, what can I glean?

A certain man

- He went from Jerusalem to Jericho
- He fell among thieves
- He was stripped of his garments
- He was wounded
- He was left half dead

A certain priest

- He came down the way
- He saw the half-dead
- He passed by on the other side

A Levite

- He was at the place of incident
- He saw the half-dead man
- He passed by on the other side

A certain Samaritan

- He journeyed and came to the incident place

- He saw the half-dead man
- He had compassion on the man
- He went to the half-dead man
- He bound his wounds
- He poured in oil and wine
- He put him on his beast
- He brought him to an inn
- He took care of him
- He left him two pence for his further care
- He made plans for him before leaving
- He planned to visit him again
- He planned to be responsible for any expenses
- Jesus said, go and do likewise.

1. A certain man

The man in this story left home intending to get to a desired destination, but unfortunately, he couldn't reach his destination as he was waylaid.

There're many certain men going down the dangerous route of life. Some are taking these dangerous routes ignorantly, while some are taking these routes deliberately.

And as a result of the road, they chose to travel, they fell into the hands of wrong people who were thieves, they're robbers who stripped them of all morality and innocence.

Many indeed have been stripped of godliness, righteousness, marriage etc. And not only are they stripped off, but they're also wounded and left half-dead. Some who were once fervent Christians are now neither cold nor hot, they're lukewarm. Such is the situation of many daughters and women both in and outside the church.

Think of many young people who left home for university intending to do an undergraduate course so they can bag a bachelor's degree, but unfortunately, they dropped out at the beginning of the first semester of university life. Some managed a few months or years but were left half-dead. They now have to go and seek other means of acquiring a career in life. Many are indeed on the dangerous route.

Prayer

- Lord, open my eyes to the many souls that are journeying the dangerous routes of life.

A certain priest

He came down the way

This priest came by opportunity on the way of this victim of thieves. He quickly ran away perhaps so that he won't be corrupted by the scene he saw, or so that he is undefiled to offer his service at the gathering of the people.

And indeed, many know the Lord and know that they are a royal priesthood, a holy nation and they see many en route the dangerous route who have probably become dead, but felt they are not in a position to help them, for offering help will put they themselves in danger, they knew or felt that they were not equipped to help such a one.

He saw the half-dead

Not only did he come to the scene but also saw the man laying half-dead. Maybe seeing that man lying dead reminded me of a similar case where the person that tried to help got into severe trouble, and he felt he can't help the man he saw.

He passed by on the other side

Some people have indeed tried to win others to Christ or help others and they became victims of what they were trying to rescue others from.

There are those who were once believers but are now under attack; some of these attacked victims are on the routes of partying, clubbing, and immodest dressing though a royal priesthood, they came across those on that route before them and they tried to help, but they are now attacked by alcoholism, mental health issues, and some sorts of instability in life. They are priests but are unable to offer help, instead, they themselves sink down.

While some realised it was a dangerous route, they quickly turned back, fearing for their lives and took other ways. Maybe it was wisdom for them to run away from every appearance of evil. Yet, some are callous, and selfish and wouldn't care about the state of those under attack on the dan-

gerous route of life. Which one am I? Am I not callous as I see many who are victims and captives of the robbers of life? Do I not quickly seek how to escape?

2. The Levite

He was at the place of incident

This one is like a believer who is actually in service of the Lord but comes across souls in captives, wounded, but couldn't bind the broken-hearted.

He too was at the place of the incident. He was given the opportunity to be at this scene of a man laying half-dead after being attacked while journeying the dangerous route. And are ministers not called to go on dangerous routes seeking souls?

He saw the half-dead

While at the scene where the man was attacked, he saw the attacked man laying half dead. His eyes saw the state of this victim, but his heart was not touched. He was more concerned about the service he needed to offer to many people and would not waste his time or defile himself by stopping to help this man out. Or should I say he quickly left seeing that he had not what was needed to help this man that was half dead? Maybe it was his helplessness that sent him away. Has my incapacity sent me away from helping souls on the route of death?

This is where using my friendship with God comes in handy. God is not allowing souls in need to come in contact with me for fun, He expected me to turn them to Him. But this can only be if I have learnt to cultivate an ongoing friendship with Him.

He passed by on the other side

While at the place of the incident and saw the man laying half dead, he quickly passed by the other side because he saw the man half dead, and probably thought the robbers might be around, or thought he might be implicated when found standing by this man, or that he might be defiled if he touched this half-dead man. It was a great risk, therefore he chose to abandon him and went his way.

How often I must have missed out on souls that need help maybe because I needed to catch a bus, train, or flight on time, or maybe I have an appointment I need to keep. The Lord will need to help me to live a deliberate life and be sensitive to those He allows my way.

The Samaritan

A Samaritan is a residence of Samaria, a watch mountain or a place of watchdog or guardianship. No wonder this man was able to offer help. He lived in a place where they watched, they took guardianship of others.

And this particular man was tagged the Samaritan. He wasn't a Jew like the men that were attacked nor the Levite and the priest. Samaritans are usually looked down on by the Jews (see John 4).

Samaritans lives in a region north of Jerusalem. They're viewed as mixed race. So, this Samaritan in this narrative may have had many logical reasons to ignore and abandon this Jewish man, but he couldn't, instead, he watched the attacked man, he didn't just see him but watched and probably saw the pain and the state of the attacked man. It was in his watching that he saw his wounds and his state and the depth of his attack.

Therefore, as a result of what he observed in watching this victim of robbers, his heart was full of compassion that moved him to bind the wounds of the half-dead man, and poured oil and wine on him, set him on his beast and took him to the inn for further care, and paid his bill, and even planned to revisit him.

If I am going to pursue overtake and recover all, I must take cognisant of the many Jews who may have a different belief system, way of life, and ethnicity from mine. I am not only talking about the Jews but anyone the Lord direct on my path.

Sometimes, I can be critical of churches, those collecting money or running sales and fail to see that these practices of theirs are because they've been stripped of the virtue of Christ who cares for His work.

For me to fully function as this Samaritan: I must be in genuine friendship with God, so that He can rob His mind with mine.

Jesus was always full of compassion whenever He comes across the needy. His response isn't always first a criticising what they do, but rather seeing their state. This is why He invites me to come and be His friend so that His iron can sharpen my iron. It's in me sharpening me that I'm able to see as He sees, and act as He acts. It's in my friendship with Him that He sharpens me and teaches me how to nurse and bound the wounds of men, and also learn how to revisit those whose wounds I once bound.

What are the principles that I have taken from this Samaritan man?

1. Watch out

This Samaritan man watched out for this man that was robbed and wounded. He was overly concerned about his destination; he took the detail of the moment to mind. He couldn't ignore the man laying down on the road. And if I am going to be part of God's rescue team, I must be a woman whose eyes are actively watching, keeping watch over what goes on around me is vital.

I know that I can be in my house without knowing many things that are going on in my neighbourhood. The other day the police came asking me if I noticed any suspicious events since I was home all day, but I told them I didn't as I was indoors. Meanwhile, I remember when Esther was home, she notices almost everything that goes on in the neighbourhood. She was sensitive to the happenings in our community. She said to serve locally, it is vital to be conversant with events happening locally.

Unlike the priest and the Levite who were overly concerned about their destination, this Samaritan man watched. There is a difference between seeing and watching. In watching you take details; I believe that was what this Samaritan man did.

Prayer

- Lord, teach me to watch, make me a watchwoman.

2. Compassion

Another key character or principle of this Samaritan man is his heart of compassion, for he may have watched and seen indeed but lacked the correct heart disposition towards this attacked man.

The Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines Compassion as *suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity; commiseration. compassion is a mixed passion, compounded of love and sorrow; at least some portion of love generally attends the pain or regret, or is excited by it. Extreme distress of an enemy even changes enmity into at least temporary affection.*

The definition above is so good. Compassion makes me act towards the safety of an extreme enemy. That was what this Samaritan man did, though Jews and Samaritans are not on good terms. But compassion moved him. Compassion moves me to act. It is a lack of compassion that makes me ignore those in need. And I believe this was what was missing in the Levite and the priest.

Sometimes, church or Christian activities are so packed up that there is no room for compassion, for living room for compassion means leaving room for disruption or change of plans.

So, compassion moved this man to act. All he did thereafter to this attacked man was out of his compassionate heart.

To be effectively involved in what God wants to do in my days, I need a compassionate heart. A heart of compassion for the oppressed, divorced, marginalised etc.

3. Bound

This Samaritan man having been moved by compassion, set to work. He bent down and bound the wounds of this attacked man. The sight of the wound may not be pleasant, yet, bent low to bound. He probably went about with the necessary equipment that may help with bounding wounds.

There are many wounded around me, do I have the equipment needed to help them if they stumble into me or those I stumble into? Am I ready to bend low to another woman's level and understanding and help her out while under siege or attack?

I am seeing that rescuing lives is a dirty job, I will have to get my hands dirty if I will be useful. I must be willing to bend low to help them nurse their prevailing wounds.

I must be ready to hear them out, listen to their perspectives and then trust God for wisdom to respond rightly.

For me to be rescued, Christ also bent low, He came down from heaven to rescue me. He identified first with my humanity, no wonder the scripture says that I don't have a high priest that can't feel what I feel, this is because He Himself has bent low to rescue me.

I see that no one will ever be qualified to rescue if not willing to bend low.

4. Carry on my own beast

The Samaritan man expressed his compassion further having bound the man's wound and pouring oil and wine on the wound. He now put the man on his beast. That must have been a task.

Again, I see him bent down not only to nurse the wound while the man was on the floor but to lift him and put him on his beast. He didn't care whether the man will mess up his beast with all the dirt on him or the blood that may be flowing on him. He let go of his convenience and concerned himself with the wellbeing of this man.

For me to be used of God to reach souls hijacked and wounded by the enemy, I must be willing to offer my beast whatever that may be. I may need to offer a space in my home. Am I ready to pay this price?

5. Take to inns

The Samaritan man having nursed the man's wound, bent down again and lifted him and take him to an inn. A place where he will be well looked after. So, to help those that are attacked by the enemy, I must be ready to release them into inns. There may be the need to signpost them to other resources or another ministry or someone who might help. I see that the rescuing of lives under attack is not a one-man show. It may involve various hands. And I can also say it may mean referring to experts, specific brethren that may be well-resourced as psychologists, therapists, counselors etc. It might mean being added or taken to a study group or offering anything that may be of further help.

6. Pay their expenses

Again, the man was very sacrificial. He put his hands into his pockets and pay for the man's expenses. Seeing again that the rescuing of people who are under attack or those already wounded will need to foot their bill so to say. Labouring with the Lord in rescuing souls will demand my financial contribution. There will be moments when I will need to pay bills or pay for the shopping of these souls. Am I prepared to offer support in this dimension? To be honest, involvement in ministry means using my finances to help or support those in need. I can't afford to leave souls that God brings my way in need nor ignore their financial needs whatever that may be.

7. Revisit

The Samaritan man did all he did and even planned to revisit this wounded man. He put down some money and promised to come back and then he will pay any outstanding costs. This is like a follow-up. And follow up is one of the areas that is usually ignored. No matter what I do with people I must be willing to follow up. There is a need to follow up.

But all these hinges on my friendship with God and with the attacked friends.

Prayer

- Make me Your friend and help me to be willing to be Your friend, and pay the price of devotion to this friendship.
- Give me Your mindset on lives in captivity and wounds.
- Help me to live by what You have taught me. Amen.

