

## Which One Are You?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

In [Luke 10:30-37](#) Jesus tells the story of the Samaritan who helped an injured man. We usually think of him as the Good Samaritan because of his deeds. The Lord told this story to teach about love and I believe that he could have put a name to each of the individuals that he referred to. First is the victim, the traveler who was robbed and beaten.

The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was about 20 miles long and was dangerous because of the thieves that were usually about. Why the man was alone we are not told as it would have been safer to be in a group. He is often referred to as a poor man. He was after the attack, but there is no reason to think that he was before he was robbed. Although Jesus didn't say what he had as he traveled he might have had an animal to ride and some belongings. There was enough to attract the attention of the band of thieves. The road is said to have many places where a person could be ambushed. This man was robbed of all that he had and they even took his clothes. Then they beat him and probably stabbed him leaving him half dead. Without help he would die

but the robbers didn't care about that.

After awhile a priest came along and saw the wounded man. He didn't stop to help and we might wonder why. If he were going from Jerusalem toward Jericho he would have finished his duties at the temple and was going home. In [Numbers 19:11](#) it says, "He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days." So if he was going home he would have been alright by the time he had to return to serve in the temple. If he were going to the temple he still should have helped a person in need. Sometimes a person can be more interested in going through the motions and form of religion than living it.

Next a Levite came along and his situation is similar to the priest. Depending on his direction of travel he also had either finished his service at the temple, or was going to it. He was curious enough to stop for a moment to look at the wounded man. Was he looking to see if he knew him? Maybe he tried to see if he was still alive. Whatever his reason was he decided that it was not worth the trouble. Maybe these men of the temple were afraid that the robbers might still be around. They might have thought that it would be enough to tell someone in town that a body was beside the road. So many folks are like that - they see a need and say that someone should do something, but they won't be the ones to do it.

Then came a Samaritan passing by on the same road. The Jews and the Samaritans didn't get along at all. The woman at the well was surprised that Jesus talked with her because she was a Samaritan. [John 4:9](#) This man didn't worry that the wounded man was a Jew. If the roles had been reversed a Jew might not help a Samaritan. All this man saw was someone in need. Where the two Jews had passed by, this man stopped and helped. It is safe to say that he saved the man's life. He treated his injuries and took him to an inn. Money was left to take care of the man's needs with the promise to pay more if it was needed. This Samaritan went beyond what was expected of him and I wonder if he ever got a "Thank You" from the one he helped.

Each of us has the potential to be one of the characters in this story. We might be the victim and feel like people pass us by. Some will ignore us but there are those who try to live according to the Word of God. Then there are those who are only concerned with looking good and going through the motions. They might tell someone of your need, or ask about you, but are not likely to have time to help you. Thank the Lord that there are some who, like the Good Samaritan, take the time and effort to help. Helping someone takes time and effort but those who love the Lord are willing to spend it. Four characters in this story - which one are you?

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THE LORD TOLD ME HE IS HIDING IN THE STORAGE TENT!

**SAMUEL AND SAUL**  
WITH ALL THE ISRAELITES ASSEMBLED AT MIZPEH TO LEARN WHO WILL BE KING, SAUL HIDES! BUT SAMUEL ALREADY KNOWS HIS HIDING PLACE, AND NOW...

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AND SO THE MODEST SAUL, NOT BELIEVING HE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE KING IS DRAGGED BEFORE THE TRIBES OF ALL ISRAEL!

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JOHN

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