



Luke 10:30-35 (NRSV)

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Early Christians understood the parable differently than most Christians understand it today. They interpreted the parable like this:

- We were like the one attacked and left by the side of the road.
- The Good Samaritan is _____.
- The Inn represents the _____.
- The two coins represent
the two great _____.

Psalm 107:4-9 (NRSV)

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

- Some people are wandering through life as physical and spiritual refugees crying out to the Lord for nourishment for their bodies and souls.

Psalm 107:10-16 (NRSV)

Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he shatters the doors of bronze, and cuts in two the bars of iron.

- There are those who are living life trapped in hopelessness. They cry out to the Lord for help; to break the chains of their despair.

Psalm 107:17-22 (NRSV)

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

- There are those who are physically or spiritually sick without knowing any joy in life. They cry out to God for healing.

Psalm 107:23-32 (NRSV)

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity; they reeled and staggered like drunkards, and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

- There are those who are suffering due to unexpected storms in life. Courage and confidence evaporates and panic sets in. They cry out to the Lord to bring them to a safe place.

Think About It

- Do you believe that Christ Church offers healing, as a “field hospital,” to those physically or spiritually sick and hurting in our community?
- As a part of the “field hospital,” what is your role?
- At what moment has God moved you out of your comfort zone to make a difference?
- At what point does our belief become action?