

Every Sunday, I pray since last Sunday, you've come back a little more wise than before. I can only hope for some of you. Perhaps you hope the same for me, a little more wise than you saw me last. But you have at least one wise pastor. I pray you know how parables work, you have to first find who is Jesus in parables, and that parable is not focused on you being a Good Samaritan.

The man asked, **What must I do to inherit eternal life?** Eliabeth there, what did she do to inherit life, or do to inherit the massive Adair estate. What does any of us do to inherit, even from God eternal life? **What must I do to inherit eternal life?** Nothing but receive. Matters of life and death are on our minds these days.

Life is not safe. Never has been, especially if you confess the Christ properly. Every follower of Christ dies to self and rises to new life, and yet still risks their life for the sake of Him who is eternal life. St. Paul writes, **I am always being given over to death that the life of Christ be manifested in my body and flesh.** That you are joined to Him who lives in the midst of death. As we see all too clearly with 9/11 anniversary and Charlie Kirk; you also recently see brutal murders, summer camp children and counselors swept away by flood, children murdered while at chapel, and the list can go on. We are surround by evil. And a world of hostilities if you confess the crucified Jesus and Him alone is the only truth of life and body and marriage and salvation. They will not take kindly to it.

If you confess the true Christ, you will be hated, even Jesus tells you, **a servant is not greater than their master**, as you see could anyone be more loving, more wise, more compassionate than He to others and look what happens.

Take courage Scripture commends you. Courage -not your personal strength but a spiritual attribute – means trusting in God's presence and promises. Courage- the ability to act in Godly wisdom, His truth, even when afraid, even when there's a cost, knowing God is with you, you His baptized. He will see to your good. Evil, demons, evil people cannot win even though it seems like it. He will use every tragedy, every evil for good, to show more compassion as the Good Samaritan to His beloved. Show courage in these days against evil and lies. Even Aristotle contends without courage, what good are the other virtues.

The most important thing you can do every night, pray in your home, over your family, **Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**, and in the Evening Prayer, **Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.** And repeat in the morning. There are warm beautiful days, and yet, also dark days, we live in evil times. **Take courage**, God's work in you, for you are an inheritor of eternal life. You cannot die.

The Lawyer asked, **Who is my neighbor?** Who must I love?' Everyone agrees with **Love your neighbor**, as long as you get to choose who. This lawyer is like us. We want loopholes, for God to grade on a curve, gives some credit for our intentions. It should count for something for being good, nice, doing favors for certain people, don't cuss too much, credit for being generous, charitable, polite, for saying our prayers. Listen to what mom told us. That lawyer, like us, wants to look good, righteous because he's good people. Yet, it still isn't enough. Not even close. Help others, do all you can, it's not enough, only those who keep the Law perfectly inherit eternal life.

Who is my neighbor? Jesus' response, parable, the Good Samaritan. Good Samaritan forever linked with anyone who does good things, who stops to help, sees a need, responds. The world gets this wrong, they think being Christian is all about being a good Samaritan. A religion of rewards, God does good to those who do good to Him.

No, Christianity is about the God who comes to people who are beaten, left dead on the road. The more you understand this Good Samaritan story, you realize, the story is not, foremost as most people think- **go and do likewise**, be good Samaritans. Sure, important how we are to live, treat each other but very secondary.

This is what Jesus, the Good Samaritan does to save you. You, left for dead. Jesus finds you broken, beaten condemned by the Law, helpless, dying. He comes to victims of thieves, robbers who abuse you, robbed of hope, beaten up by the world. Assaulted by sin. Assaulted by Satan to believe that their God is unloving, uncaring, not wanting to stop to help. Wounded, bleeding, left for dead. Hopeless, helpless to save ourselves.

He intervenes. Oil pointing to Holy Baptism? Wine pointing to Holy Communion? The Inn: the Church. Of course, this is a parable.

Christ, coming to you in the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit in baptism. Pours out wine of His blood from His altar to cleanse your wounds. It's written, **the blood of Jesus cleanse us from all sin**. So too Christ fulfills Scriptures, **I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, will bestow on you the oil of joy and bring forth the wine that gladden hearts**. These are real things. His compassionate work in your life, healing balm of mercy to soothe your wounds of sin.

The parable concludes, 2 denarii to the innkeeper. The inn, the church. Innkeepers – faithful pastors, given to look after, care for His people who still suffer the wounds of sin, abundant payment for your forgiveness, healing your wounds, daily care until... until He comes back. The inn here, never runs out, the oil and wine Sacraments, delivering the goods of Christ, without cost to you, overflowing His compassion, delivering healing to restore you. Bind you up. As in nothing else in this world will. 2 denarii, that thru the ministry Christ pays the debt His people can't pay, absolving their sins 2 times over, Isaiah wrote of the church, **Speak comfort to Jerusalem, for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins**.

Who proves to be a neighbor? You go and do likewise, as you've been handled by your Lord. The more you realize this, be more compassionate, more merciful, love your neighbors, for you are freed, freed from earning His love and life and from judgment of the Law, what a way to live. **Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?** Nothing, inheritance only given, your adoption like Elizabeth at the font, receive the gifts of Christ. The Good Samaritan never fails to attend to you in compassion, forgives you from His mercy. He loves to love you, unlovable and unloving though you are. Clothing you who've been stripped, with His righteousness, giving His perfect keeping of the law to you -that you have eternal life. It says, **He had compassion**. Never lose sight He always has compassion on you to act in your life. That's the good Samaritan story, it's your story. And now, have the blood of Jesus poured on your wounds.