

THE DOWNWARD JOURNEY

Luke 10:30-35

Introduction: This is perhaps one of the most popular parables which Jesus told. He told this parable to a lawyer who was trying to trap Jesus by asking Him who was his neighbor. Jesus and His disciples had just made the journey from Jerusalem to Jericho, down the perilous road. The road was downhill, with rocky mountain sides all along the way. The road had been given the name, "the way of blood" since there had been so many robbed and killed on this lonely road of some 21 miles.

I. A CERTAIN MAN

Jesus may have meant this to be Him, or one may apply this to all mankind as all men are on the downward road to hell. This certain man was probably a Jewish peddler as this was the only road between Jerusalem and Jericho and so it was traveled quite frequently by merchants even though it was dangerous.

1. This certain man had encountered a band of thieves. They robbed him, took his mule, his clothes and left him to die alone.
2. Jesus was also robbed. Even His clothes were taken. The Jews crucified Him as a common thief.

II. THE PRIEST CAME BY

The priest passed by on the other side of the road and the priest traveled frequently between Jerusalem and Jericho as he was required to stay at the temple for a certain period of time and when that time was up, he returned to his home.

1. The very reason for the position of the priest was to aid people, yet this priest passed on the other side of the road.
2. Again, Jesus was left to die by the very men who should have stood up for Him and aided Him in His mission, the Priests.

III. THE LEVITE CAME BY

The Levite came by and did more than the priest. At least he looked upon the dying man. Just maybe he had a bit of compassion for the man, but he shrank from the trouble and expense of helping the injured man.

1. Again we may apply Jesus to this scene. Look at the many thousands of people who proclaim that they are Christians, yet they live a very questionable Christian lifestyle.

2. The Levite was born to be of service to other people. So are Christians. We are reborn to love God and fellow mankind. Yet some "Christians" strangle any impulse to help further God's cause.

IV. WHO FINALLY HAD COMPASSION AND HELPED THE INJURED MAN?

A Samaritan who was looked down on by the Jews. A man who by all rights could have passed right on by the injured Jew, but he didn't.

1. Jesus is like that Samaritan. Jesus was hated by the Jews, called an insane man, a heretic. One who by all rights should let man go to his downward road to hell but instead He stops to help sinners who have been robbed, beaten and left to die by Satan.

V. THE ACTS OF THE SAMARITAN

The Samaritan was not satisfied by merely carrying the injured man to an inn. But he paid for future medical aid and paid for the room at the inn as long as the injured Jew stayed there.

1. Jesus may have very well been this Samaritan. Look at what the Samaritan did for the Jew:
 - He had compassion on him.
 - He bound up his wounds.
 - He gave him medicine.
 - He transferred him to his breast and cared.
 - He provided a home for him.
 - He left money to sustain him.
 - He arranged for his future.
 - He promised to come back and see him.
2. Isn't this the whole Gospel story? Doesn't Jesus promise these very things today?
 - Jesus has compassion on the lost sinner today.
 - Jesus will save that lost sinner.
 - Jesus will bind up and heal the wounds caused by Satan.
 - Jesus promises us a home in heaven.
 - Jesus has left the Holy Spirit to care for us and stay with us until Jesus returns for us.
3. The Samaritan left two pieces of money with the in-keeper.
 - Jesus left two gifts when He left.
 - He left His precious Word.
 - He left the Holy Spirit.
 - The gifts of Jesus will take care of us until Jesus returns.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus is our good Samaritan and as Jesus is to us, we should be to others.
2. Let us do unto others as we would have them do unto us.