

The Good Samaritan

Read Luke 10:27-37

I see myself in this story.
But I am not always the Samaritan.

Sometimes I am the expert in the law.
God's wisdom for us is clear and simple:
 treat your neighbor the way you want to be treated.
But when I fail, when the golden rule isn't comfortable,
I try to "justify" myself with questions and reasoning:
 "But who *is* my neighbor?
 How far does my responsibility *really* go?"

Sometimes I am the priest.
Though a neighbor's need is obvious,
 I have something more pressing to do, and more convenient.
Besides, needy people can seem very "unclean".
I pretend not to see.

But the closer I grow to God,
 the more His love grips my heart.
The more I love Him,
 the more I care about those He loves.
How can I ignore those that matter so deeply to Him?

Every parent, every loving spouse, every true friend
knows that love has its own logic and
 its own agenda.
It doesn't always make sense to others.
That is the logic and agenda my Father wants for me
as I live in this needy world,
 full of people He loves.
In every needy "neighbor" He wants me to see
 my child, my spouse, my dear friend...myself.

When I am needy and hurting,
I am desperate to see that Good Samaritan come along.
Father, help me to *be* a neighbor to the needy persons I meet.

Hymn: [The Good Samaritan](#)