

Luke 10:37

And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

You may read today's devotional verse and wonder what it's talking about. Well, if you go back just seven verses you will read that this is in regard to the parable of the Good Samaritan. I would encourage you to stop and read it starting in verse 30 with today's verse being the end of the parable.

But basically it's about a guy who got robbed and beat up so bad that he was half dead. Then a Priest, a Levite and a Samaritan are walking down the road (no this is not an opening line to a joke). The Priest and Levite (Religious guys) just ignore him and even walk across on the other side of the road so they wouldn't even have to see him up close or touch him. The Samaritan on the other hand, helped this guy out, even though he was hated by the Jews.

But we read it and wonder how these religious guys could do such a thing. After all, they are men of God. But before we get too hard on them. Let's look at it in light of today and how it may happen.

Suppose you (a man or woman of God) are walking down the street, and up ahead you see a guy laying there all bloody and bruised and maybe even passed out, because he was robbed and beaten up by those who robbed him. What would you do?

- ✓ Maybe ignore him, thinking he's a homeless guy so why worry about him, or maybe you just don't have the time, or truthfully you really don't want to get involved so you would even walk on the other side of the road so you won't have to deal with it.
- ✓ But maybe you are a little bit more compassionate than that and you would call 911 but not really do anything else.
- ✓ Or maybe you would go tell someone else, like if there is a store or gas station near by that you would run in and tell them about it, passing it off on someone else to take care of this guy.
- ✓ Or, maybe you would help this guy out just like the Samaritan did.

Once again, if you never read this parable, I would encourage you to read the parable again. When you do, think of the above examples and then listen to what Jesus would tell you to do. *"Go and do likewise."*

But this is not really about which one you would do, but I think it's more of what we read of people doing in the bible. We think that we would never do anything like that, then further down the line we find ourselves doing the same thing, maybe just in a different way.

Like the bible talks about idols and you say you would never have an idol in your home. Well, what about your 40, 50 or 60 inch 4K TV that you spend more time in front of instead of spending time with the Lord in prayer and His word (Yes I am talking to myself too). You have made that an idol.

Maybe there are certain things in your home that you just don't want others to touch (Beyond the remote for the TV) or something that you spend a lot of time and money on maintaining. There's another idol.

Here's one some won't like. What about that so called picture of Jesus hanging on your wall. You know what, that picture is not Jesus at all. Yet do you look at it, and maybe even pray to it or hold it close and cry with it in your arms. Sorry, but that is a false idol, because we do not know what Jesus looks like. In fact I remember telling my fiancé that the newest picture of Jesus looks like a young Kenny Loggins (Google it you younger folks).

I mean come on, look at the old painting that we all grew up with of Jesus with long straight hair and perfectly trimmed beard and compare it to the most recent one going around, or any other so called pictures of Jesus. They don't even look like they could be related. So, which one is right? None of them.

I say it again, it's a false Idol just as much as the golden calf that Arron made for the children of Israel was. God is not a cow, and those pictures are not Jesus. So trash them and stop worshipping a false idol.

Going back to our first thought, when you read the bible, remember people in the bible, never read the bible, so they don't know how God would come through for them. Yet they had more faith than we do sometimes. Also our culture is different now than it was 2000 – 6000 years ago, but it still doesn't mean that the bible does not apply to us today. Just like my couple examples shows how the same things is done even today.

So ask the Lord to open your eyes and understanding of what He want's to speak to you when you read the bible.

† **Psalm 119:18** *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

Also remember that you can never say that it won't happen to you, because it very well may.

† **Galatians 6:1** *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

† **Galatians 6:1 (NLT2)** *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.*