

Reflection Luke 10: 25-37

Of all the stories in the Bible, can this be the best known? Churchgoer or not most people will I'm sure, mention or talk about a "Good Samaritan", albeit perhaps not acknowledging the origins of the term.

The question remains "who is my neighbour?" and that seems to be more complicated in our present age to work out. Yet was it any different when Jesus introduced this Parable? Issues like the Priest and Levite crossing over the road to avoid getting involved, and then the idea of a person from a "group" we "don't associate" with being the one person to give aid to the robbed and wounded traveller.

The question from the Lawyer "Who is my neighbour?" simple enquiry ... yet what it throws up, is proving not to be so simple to answer, otherwise would we be having the problems society has, and have been around since time began. So many issues raised by this simple Parable, we can still see the point of Jesus' final word on it, when he said "Go and do likewise"

One thing we can be sure of, Jesus lays traps for us, it can be a story that can be highly embarrassing. These days it seems to get harder to be discerning, like am I right to get involved.

Those are issues we can only work out through the eyes of LOVE!

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 20.07.25 Trinity 5
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Genesis 18: 1-10a



NT Colossians 1: 15-28

GOSPEL Luke 10: 38-end

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St Thomas, Exeter

13th July 2025

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

15 All my hope on God is founded

39 As the deer pants for the water

261 Jesu, lover of my soul

Tuesday 15th July

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house

Wednesday 16th July

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 17th July

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 18th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 19th July

12 noon—7pm Love St Thomas Summer Festival



Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 30: 9-14

And the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Colossians 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up

for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10: 25-37

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' 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 travelling 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.' 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Post Communion

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Notices

Cleaning the Church Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are to least two people. Speak to Ian.

The House Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Helen's house. They will be looking at selected Psalms. For details see Mic or Ian.

Love St Thomas Summer Festival We have been allocated a stall to sell cakes, jams etc., and teas/coffees. We need volunteers to provide things to sell and to man the stall between 12 noon and 4/5pm. For information contact Ian from Wednesday 16th July.

Sat 16th Aug 11.00 - 12.00 Meet outside church hall entrance for 4th seasonal noticing Nature walk.

Fr David says thank you very much for the cards, generous gifts and send-off on Sunday. I shall look back on my time at St Thomas with gratitude and with joy and I wish you every blessing for the future.