

Half-dead

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?” He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.” But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?” Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

Religious pretension and hypocrisy are not the way of Jesus.

The way of Jesus is lived out through an open-armed approach to life.

In Christ’s love, everyone is someone.

Compassion is something you do.

“Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them.” C.S. Lewis

Talk About It

1. Have you ever been helped by a stranger? What happened? Have you ever helped a person in distress? What happened?
2. Why do think the priest and the Levite (assistant priest) did not stop and help the wounded man?
3. What do you think it means to truly show Godly compassion?
4. Do you think there is there such a thing as a nonneighbor? Why or why not?

5. What might you need to do to overcome differences of race or nationality or religion to express Christ-like love?
6. If you were on your way to an important appointment and you saw someone who looked beaten up, what would you do? Why?
7. What action do you think God wants you to take but you are avoiding it?
8. What grade would you give yourself in caring for hurting family members? Friends? Co-workers? People you don't like? What do you think of that? What will you do about that?
9. React to what C.S. Lewis said: "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them."