

## Luther's Explanation

The Samaritan in Jesus' parable risked his own neck to help a Jew and then spent a sizable amount of money to provide for his ongoing recovery. He invested much in order to rescue a traditional enemy. Martin Luther wrote, "Our neighbor is any human being, especially one who needs our help, as Christ interprets it in Luke 10:30-37. Even one who has done me some sort of injury or harm...does not stop being my neighbor." (*Luther's Works*, Volume 27, p. 58)



Jesus tells the famous parable of the Good Samaritan to clarify that he expects his followers to do good to all people. And yet, his concluding words, "Go, and do likewise," reminds us just how far we are from the loving, self-sacrificing behaviors the Lord expects. So it was that Jesus became the Good Samaritan for us. He laid down his life, befriended us while we were yet his enemies. He then promises us full restoration and life everlasting.

A Prayer: "Lord, make me more like you, that I may grow in faith and love for my neighbor. May people see you in my actions as I reach out to them with your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

## PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:  
"Nothing is too small for Me to use. I will care for you.  
You will be satisfied."

## The EXTRA Mile



Sing the song, "*This Little Light of Mine*" with your kids or grandkids.

What is "the light"? (Jesus)

What is "this little light of mine" ?



# THE STORY *continues...*

*Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.*

Chapter 24 No Ordinary Man

## **L**isten to *The Story*

In Chapter 24, pages 239-240, you will find the well-known story of the “Good Samaritan.” Now that you’ve read it, think about whose hands represent your own in the story?

- The clenched hands of the thieves?
- The closed and uninvolved hands of the priest/Levite?
- The wounded hands of the half-dead traveler?
- The compassionate hands of the Samaritan?
- All of the above?

## **L**earn *The Story*

*Here are some helpful notes about Jesus’ Parable of the Good Samaritan*

- When Leviticus 19:18 was delivered to the people, “neighbor” mean a fellow Israelite or a resident alien in the land.
- The Jewish priest and Levite (a Temple assistant) no doubt had Numbers 19:11 in mind: *“Those who touch the dead body of a human being shall be unclean seven days.”*
- Who are the Samaritans?
  - ◆ Jews considered Samaritans as mongrels who practiced an unacceptably mixed and misguided religion
  - ◆ Note that, in Luke 9:51-56, the Samaritans have refused hospitality to Jesus and his disciples

## **L**ove *The Story*

*Intentionally take a step forward in faith.*

Many of Jesus’ teachings are about “the Kingdom” (with a big “K”). The Kingdom of God is a tough thing to understand because it includes well, everything. God controls everything on earth, and He controls everything in heaven. This is why we can call Him the “King of heaven and earth.” Your task this week is to identify how you are building God’s Kingdom on earth. Don’t over think it. Try to summarize how your regular, ordinary life is kingdom-building for God.

*Hint: Evangelism most definitely builds God’s kingdom, but that’s only one of many things you do during your day to build His Kingdom.*