

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

July 10, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:10–14 † Colossians 1:15-20 † Luke 10:25-37



**Reflection by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP**

For the past few months, I have found myself responding emotionally to stories of acts of kindness. Whether actual lifesaving heroism as reported on the news, the thoughtfulness of a child standing up for the “underdog,” or the simple act of looking out for one another in the grocery store parking lot, such choices appear in stark contrast to some of the mean-spirited, self-centered confrontations that seem to have become the norm today.

As we celebrated Independence Day earlier this week and I sang along with the patriotic songs that extol our American values, I found myself wiping tears from my eyes, not so much out of nostalgia for the “good old days” but sadness that rather than striving to remain the face of freedom, some seem to have decided that my independence can no longer tolerate yours. Today’s Gospel appears to address this head on.

Jesus is asked a direct question: “What must I do to live rightly?” His answer is equally plain spoken: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, being, strength, mind and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus is then confronted with the question that people are still asking today: “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds by telling the story of the Good Samaritan.

In the parable, looking for goodness from expected sources results in disappointment, whereas the element of surprise greets the generous action taken by “one of those people.”

It might be worthwhile to read today’s Gospel with one of the news channels playing in the background. Who is my neighbor? Dare we include the unexpected?