

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Luc 10:25-37 – Go and Do Likewise**

In today's Gospel, you heard Jesus talking about many characters and things. We heard of the man going from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, robbers attacked him, stole everything he had and left him for dead. This man represents all of us who are on the journey of life, where sin and evil attempt to strip us of everything, including our dignity and humanity.

The Good Samaritan represents Jesus himself. It is Jesus who is God, therefore a stranger to our land (so to speak), but who made Himself one of us to incorporate us into Himself through the Sacrament of Baptism to rescue us. It is Jesus who came to our assistance, welcomed us, weakened and wounded, and ceaselessly shows us His compassion, tenderness, and love.

The oil and the wine used by the Samaritan represent the sacraments of Anointing and the Eucharist. The inn represents the Church, and the innkeeper, the priest who welcomes all those weakened and wounded by sin; willing to care for them through the sacraments, especially Penance / Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

The two silver coins given by the Samaritan to the innkeeper symbolize the necessary grace that the Lord provides to His ordained ministers, enabling them to more effectively fulfill their ministries. But Jesus also mentioned two other individuals: the Priest and the Levite. They saw the man, but they passed by on the opposite side, not out of indifference, but out of respect for the Law.

If you remember, the man was beaten, maybe bleeding. The priest and the Levite were on their way to the Temple to offer a service. In the book of Leviticus (15), a precept goes: "If you touch a bleeding person, you will be unclean until evening." You do not sin, but you are unclean. Maybe, the priest and the Levite avoided touching him to remain clean for the Temple service. They did something lawful, and yet, it prevented them from being neighbors to that man.

So, for Jesus, the answer to the question: "Who is my neighbor?" is none other than on the side of the road, which we sometimes avoid. The answer lies in the people we tend to overlook, especially those who are lonely or at a dead end in their lives; those who truly need our immediate help and support.

Jews and Samaritans were enemies, and yet it was a Samaritan who approached the Jew when his compatriots did not. What matters to Jesus is that we take the risk of approaching and loving our neighbor, no matter who they are, just as the Samaritan did. What matters is daring to encounter others, especially when they face difficult times.

The Samaritan reminds us that loving our neighbor is to find joy in giving without keeping track, without calculating. To love our neighbor, we must let go of everything that drives us away from others and isolates us. We need to free ourselves from the things that hold us back and prevent us from reaching out to others, such as indifference, rejection, misunderstanding, fear or others' judgment.

Today, Jesus brings us into a concrete experience of human relationships. He places us in front of a mirror through the story of the good Samaritan. He immerses us in a story in which we all become actors. The lesson is clear: being a Christian is not complicated. We only need to have an open heart and eyes because worshipping the Lord in Church is not enough. We must serve Him in the streets and on the roads.

By asking Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”, the scholar made a big mistake: Eternal life cannot be inherited. It’s a gift from God. The only thing we can do is to welcome it by loving God and everyone without exception, just as Jesus did. But he made another big mistake when he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

It’s as if Jesus answered him: “Don’t waste your time looking for your neighbor. Instead, focus on being the neighbor who draws closer to those in need. So, the correct question is: “Who am I a neighbor to?”

It is with this question that the Lord leaves us this morning: In your life, who do you draw close to? To whom do you give the best of yourselves? How do you give? Are you just a churchgoer, or are you a practicing Christian? Do you treat people with compassion, tenderness and love like the Samaritan? If yes, then who?

Please take your time to answer these questions; Jesus is interested in your thoughts and opinions on this matter.