



Seeing What God Says: At the Heart of Showing Mercy

Luke 10:25-37

The illustration is Vincent van Gogh's 1890 revision of Eugene Delacroix's 1852 revision of Domenico Feti's 1623 painting of today's parable. Note the energy the Samaritan puts toward placing the limp half-dead man on his own animal. Notice the wildness of the Jericho road and the possible danger to the Samaritan. See, too, the Levite and the priest fleeing their obligation to their neighbor and disappearing into the gray and colorless background.

COMPASSION FATIGUE

THE LAWYER AND THE EXAMINATION

Love for the God you don't see is proven by love for the neighbor you do.
(Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18)

The question is not "who is my neighbor?"
but "what kind of a neighbor am I?"

THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES FOR GIVING WISELY

Family (1 Timothy 5:8)

Believers (Galatians 6:10)

Bourse Française

Caring for the "worthy poor" (as in Acts 6) but not crippling them by doing for them what they can do (1 Timothy 5:11)

The individual's calling before God (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Ephesians 4:28)

Community

They fed the poor, nursed the sick, housed the homeless, and rescued those abandoned to die. David W. Hall

"Nothing has contributed more to the progress of the superstition of the Christians as their charity to strangers . . . The impious Galileans provide not only for their own poor, but for ours as well.

Emperor Julian (331-363 AD)

AT THE HEART OF MERCY

God binds up . . . and cares for the poor and needy

(Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 61: 1)

Jesus binds up . . . and cares for the poor and needy (Luke 4:18-21)

Jesus as Samaritan (John 8:48)

The only spring for the river of mercy is understanding His mercy to us.

John 13:34 Jesus expands the demands of the law: We are to love our neighbor not only as we love ourselves, but as He loved us

How will I and how will we show mercy to the neighbor God places before us?

The Amish of Salisbury, Maryland and John Helmstettler's barn

Resources for further study:

HELPING HERE

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Giving Wisely: Killing with Kindness or Empowering Lasting Transformation? by Jonathan Martin

HELPING GLOBALLY (WORLD MISSIONS)

The Poor Will Be Glad: Joining the Revolution to Lift the World Out of Poverty by Phil Smith and Peter Greer