October 7, 2019

Scripture

Luke 10:25-37
There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”
He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them.”
Then he lifted him up on his own animal, 
took him to an inn, and cared for him.  
The next day he took out two silver coins  
and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction,  
'Take care of him.  
If you spend more than what I have given you,  
I shall repay you on my way back.'  
Which of these three, in your opinion,  
was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"  
He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."  
Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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Our Scripture Reflection

In our Lord’s day, the definition of neighbor was essentially someone who looked like me, dressed like me, lived like me, worshipped like me, ate like me, talked like me, or in other words, neighbor was a brother/sister child of Israel. In one of His most familiar parables, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says to His audience your picture of the neighbor is much too stingy….think bigger….can you? Will you?

Food for your Journey

How kind the good Samaritan,  
To him who fell among the thieves!  
Thus Jesus pityes fallen man,  
And heals the wounds the soul receives.  
O! I remember well the day,  
When sorely wounded, nearly slain;  
Like that poor man I bleeding lay,  
And groaned for help, but groaned in vain.  
Men saw me in this helpless case,  
And passed without compassion by;  
Each neighbor turned away his face,  
Unmoved by my mournful cry.  
But he whose name had been my scorn,  
As he who many did despise  
Came, when he saw me thus forlorn,  
With love and pity in his eyes.  
Gently he raised me from the ground,  
Pressed me to lean upon his arm;  
And into every gaping wound  
He poured his own all-healing balm.  
Unto his church my steps he led,  
The house prepared for sinners lost;  
Gave charge that I be clothed and fed;  
And took upon him all the cost.  
There through eternal boundless days,  
When nature's wheel no longer rolls,  
How shall I love, adore and praise,
This good Samaritan to souls!
—John Newton

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, I pray for the Grace to love all people as You love them, without comparison and without counting the cost. Thank You for loving me. Amen