

It Costs To Be A Good Samaritan

*"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was;
and when he saw him, he took pity on him.
He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.
Then he put the man on his own donkey,
brought him to an inn and took care of him.
The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper.
'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return,
I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"*

Luke 10:33-35 (NIV)

The story of the good Samaritan is familiar to all of us. One detail we usually miss is that the Samaritan paid a significant price to help the Jewish man.

First this kind man made himself vulnerable by kneeling down beside the victim. The robbers who beat up the victim could have been hiding and ready to spring on anyone who stopped to lend a helping hand. It might have cost the helper his own life for stooping down to help the victim.

Next the Samaritan took from his first aid kit oil, wine and wrappings to help purify the wounds and stop bleeding.

Then the kind man put the disabled man on his donkey and came to an inn. It is likely that the Samaritan was late for his appointments. So it cost him in time to help the victim.

Then he told the innkeeper to

care for the man and put the cost on his account. The next time he came by he would reimburse the innkeeper. It cost the good Samaritan a considerable sum to help this stranger.

The Gospel is illustrated beautifully in this story. Life and sin beat us up leaving us helpless and totally unable to do anything for ourselves. Jesus comes and lovingly, tenderly binds up our wounds, brings us to His Father's sphere of influence and by His death and resurrection pays in full for all our sins.

Joseph Hart wrote a beautiful hymn depicting our state outside of Christ and the wonderful invitations to come to the Saviour for free salvation that cost Him so much. Read this delightful hymn right now and find yourself "lost in wonder, love, and praise."

Come, you sinners,
poor and needy,
weak and wounded,
sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands
to save you,
full of pity, love,
and power.

Come, you thirsty,
come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and
true repentance,
ev'ry grace
that brings you nigh.

Let not conscience
make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requires
is to feel your need of him.

Come, you weary,
heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.

I will rise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of his merit,
there is joy and life in him.

- Joseph Hart

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