



## True Religion

*Theme of the week: Faith at Full Throttle*

Galatians 6:3 (GW), "So if any one of you thinks you're important when you're really not, you're only fooling yourself."

### ***A Story About a Good Samaritan***

<sup>25</sup> Then an expert in Moses' Teachings stood up to test Jesus. He asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered him, "What is written in Moses' Teachings? What do you read there?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind.' And 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> Jesus told him, "You're right! Do this, and life will be yours."

<sup>29</sup> But the man wanted to justify his question. So he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man went from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way robbers stripped him, beat him, and left him for dead.

<sup>31</sup> "By chance, a priest was traveling along that road. When he saw the man, he went around him and continued on his way. <sup>32</sup> Then a Levite came to that place. When he saw the man, he, too, went around him and continued on his way.

<sup>33</sup> "But a Samaritan, as he was traveling along, came across the man. When the Samaritan saw him, he felt sorry for the man, <sup>34</sup> went to him, and cleaned and bandaged his wounds. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day the Samaritan took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. He told the innkeeper, "Take care of him. If you spend more than that, I'll pay you on my return trip."

<sup>36</sup> "Of these three men, who do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert said, "The one who was kind enough to help him."

Jesus told him, "Go and imitate his example!"

Jews and Samaritans did not socialize together. To the Jews the Samaritans were inferior.

- Which of the five characters do think most men relate to? What about yourself?

**The Jewish Man** – beaten and abused left to die on the road.

**Priest** – (Descendants of Aaron) Passed by one of his own; a heart far away from helping people.

**Levite** – (The Workers) Well acquainted with God's law to love our neighbor – passed by.

**Samaritan** – (Pagan stock – not Jewish Blood) -

**Innkeeper** – Accepted the job to serve and was trusting of the Samaritan to repay and do what was needed until he returned?



What if we were to ask Jesus the same question, “Who is our neighbor?”

- Who might Jesus use as an example in our lives today – our Samaritan?
- Who are the people we are most likely to pass by?
- What risks do we face in doing what is good and right?
  - Why do we pass by?
  - Is it ever OK to pass by?

Real religion – Real Faith – is a faith that responds to the love and mercy we receive from God. In the book of James we read, “A body that doesn’t breathe is dead. In the same way faith that does nothing is dead.”

- What is meant when Jesus says, “...go and imitate his example” in the parable of the Good Samaritan?

We know there will be days when we don’t feel like stopping or it appears time does not allow. What step should we take in being following the example Jesus gives us through the Good Samaritan?

**Prayer:**

Lord we know there are times in our lives we are like the Priest and the Levite. We acknowledge that we walk by those who are hurting or need help. We ask your forgiveness for the times we don’t treat everyone as our neighbor and selfishly look to ourselves and our own agenda. We give You thanks and praise for sending Your Son, Jesus to bare the sin in our lives giving us You unconditional forgiveness. Send Your Holy Spirit to lead our lives in ways that serve our neighbors as we You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.