

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Years ago, when I was in Nurse's Training, every three months a group of Student Nurses were sent to Northville to become familiar with and able to work with patients undergoing Psychiatric Treatment. It was a far different time than now and there were many that were placed there by family with a Judge's orders or by criminal court orders. It was an interesting and challenging experience. One patient that I have always remembered was placed there by her family with a diagnosis of Paranoid Schizophrenia. She felt her need to be there was a huge mistake and would talk about it all the time. They had told her she was going to Harper Hospital, which she liked, and instead placed her in an institution. She needed help to be sure, but she felt that a huge mistake had been made and would talk about it all the time. She was Jewish and wore a tattoo of a number on her arm. She had previously been taken to a destination, not of her choosing and had managed to survive horrors that she kept locked inside. I cannot imagine her fear in that horrible Concentration Camp. She was placed there, not because she had done anything wrong, but simply because of who she was. We are living in tumultuous times in our country when people are attacked, not because they have done wrong, but merely because they exist. The woman at Northville had been placed in a Concentration Camp, not because she had done anything wrong but because she was Jewish and because she existed. She had reason to be paranoid.

Luke 10:25-37 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied, "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself." "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied, "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply, Jesus said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 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, took him to an Inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the Innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any expense you may have." "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the Law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Lord, be with us this day, help us to see others as your children. Help us to accept and love in your name those that may not dress as we do, may not look as we do, may not agree with us on the issues of the day, the poor, the sick, the demon filled. Help us to be your example of love, the same love that Jesus taught us, to accept, forgive and love in his name. Be with our Church, help us to be the Church you want us to be. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve and those that seek you, may they find your peace and strength. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, watch over his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders, give them strength and clarity of purpose. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson