

The Good Samaritan.

Luke 10: 30-37: Retold as a rhyming story, by Sue Bleazard.

In a far away country, such a long time ago,
Jesus was talking to the people below.
A man asked a question to Jesus above
"Who is my neighbour Lord, who should I love?"

He shaded his eyes, the better to see
Who asked the question, who could it be?
"Well now, let me tell you," Jesus replied,
"A story about a man who walked mile after mile..."

There once was a man, who lived far away,
who needed to go on a journey one day.
From Jerusalem City to Jericho,
A difficult walk, and a long way to go.

He took a cloth bag with a long, leather strap
And inside packed food, a cool drink and a map.
With strong shoes to wear and a stick made of oak
He set off, his bag hidden under his cloak.

The path was stony and steeply winding,
The day was hot and the sun truly blinding.
"I hope I don't have any bad luck today,"
Thought the man, as he swished a fly away.

For the journey is long and the mountains are high,
The sun will be hot as it climbs in the sky.
The path isn't safe for those walking or riding,
Where robbers and thieves are watching and hiding...
In the heat of the morning he sang an old song,

to lift his spirits as he marched along.

"I'll keep to the path and, nearer the top,
I can rest when I find a safe place to stop."

As midday approached a safe place was found,
And, spreading his cloak, he sat on the ground.
But as he removed his bag from his shoulder
Three robbers leapt out from behind a boulder!



The man held his bag, crying "Don't take my money!"
But the robbers took everything, thinking it funny
To leave the man there on the ground with no shoes,
No cloak, hat or stick but many bumps and a bruise.

For the journey is long and the mountains are high,
The sun will be hot as it climbs in the sky.
The path isn't safe for those walking or riding,
where robbers and thieves are watching and hiding...

For two hours more the man lay in the heat
When a priest came, dusty from head to feet.
"Ah, someone's coming to help me, at last"

But the Priest shook his head and hurried straight
passed.



For three hours more the man lay in the heat,
In the distance he heard approaching feet.
A smartly dressed man, who didn't like trouble,
Saw the poor man and rushed by at the double.



Four hours passed - the man lay in the heat,
and presently heard clip-clopping feet.
"Oh no, now I'm finished, will nobody help me?"
For the man with the donkey did not look too friendly.

For the journey is long and the mountains are high,
The sun will be hot as it climbs in the sky.
The path isn't safe for those walking or riding,
Where robbers and thieves are watching and hiding...

The Samaritan was shocked to see a man lying hurt
And rushed at once to kneel in the dirt,
"Don't worry, poor fellow, I'll help," he said
glancing to see if the robbers had fled.



He carefully gave the man water and bread,
And folded his cloak to cradle his head.

He washed his cuts, gave him something to wear
Then lifted him onto his donkey with care.

They reached an inn as the sunset burned red.
"Give this man a meal and a comfortable bed,
Look after him, please, as I must leave now
I'll pay when I'm back, I give you my vow."



"Now tell me," said Jesus when the story was done
"Who was a neighbour that day in the sun?
The Priest? Such a holy man, hurrying by,
Or the man smartly dressed, who turned a blind eye?"

"The Samaritan, of course!" the crowd replied,
"Without his help the poor man would have died!"
"Yes," said Jesus, "it's a lesson indeed:
Love and care for anyone, whatever the need"

For the journey is long and the mountains are high,
The sun will be hot as it climbs in the sky.
When someone needs help, and it's all down to you,
Love them.....and be a Good Samaritan too.

Reflection

Mark 12:30-31: *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* The second is this: *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these.

In the bible Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as yourself. What do you think he means by this?

During the last few months we have experienced lots of changes due to the Covid 19 virus. In order to keep ourselves and other people safe we have been asked to stay at home. Our school has been closed and we have missed our family and friends. However during this difficult time we have also seen many thoughtful acts of kindness where people have been a "good Samaritan," helping other people within our community. Here are a few examples but I am sure you can think of lots more.

- Collecting shopping and medicine for people who can't get it themselves.
- A community larder has been set up providing food for people who need it.
- Every Thursday we stand outside and clap to thank our NHS staff and keyworkers. You may have also made a rainbow picture to display in your window.
- People have been phoning or video calling friends, neighbours and family to check that they are ok and keep in touch.
- Food has been donated to our local food bank.

I think this is exactly what Jesus means when he asks us to "love our neighbour as ourselves." It means to look after each other and show our neighbours that we care for them.

Our family have really appreciated how kind our neighbours have been to us during this time. Eryn and Reuben were very excited to find someone had kindly left them some chocolate at Easter. We have also been given some tomato plants by another kind neighbour who heard that we are

trying to grow our own vegetables. Reuben's favourite part of the day is going out for a walk around the village. He loves it when people say hello and give him a friendly wave. Simple things can mean such a lot to other people.

Can you think about some of the kind things that people have done for you recently? What could you do to show your neighbours or family that you care for them?

Although we can't meet together in Sunday school at the moment, remember that we are still thinking of you all and miss you a lot. Stay safe and we will look forward to seeing you soon.

Lots of love

Rachel & family