

# The Good Samaritan

A smart man once asked Jesus, “Teacher, what should I do so I go to Heaven and live forever?”

Jesus told the smart man “What is written in the Bible? What do you think?”

The smart man answered “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself.”

“That is right!” Jesus said, “Do this and you will live forever in Heaven.”

The smart man asked, “But who is my neighbour?”

Jesus told the smart man a story to help him understand the answer he was looking for.

There was once a Jewish man walking along a road from Jerusalem towards Jericho. It would take the man a full day or two to walk because there were small hills all around and the road was rocky.

The man walked along the road, humming to himself as he enjoyed the lovely sunny day. Suddenly, a group of men jumped out from behind a hill and took everything that the man had, ripped most of his clothes and pushed him to the ground then hurt him badly. They left him bleeding next to the road.

A few minutes later, a priest was walking down the same path and saw the man lying on the side of the road<sup>1</sup>. The priest did not stop to help the man, he walked over to the other side of the road and acted like he didn't see the man on the ground.



A while later, another man called a Levite, whose job is to help priests work, was walking down the road<sup>2</sup>. He slowed down and walked a little closer to the man on the ground but kept on walking and did not help<sup>3</sup>.

Jesus explained to the smart man that perhaps the priest and the Levite thought the man lying down on the ground was resting and that is why they didn't stop to help, but it was easy to see that the man on the ground was badly hurt.

A few minutes later, another man came walking along the path. He was a Samaritan. Jews usually didn't like Samaritans so did not treat them well<sup>4</sup>.

As soon as the Samaritan saw the man on the ground had been beaten badly, he wanted to help the man in distress. He went over and put bandages on his cuts, poured expensive oil and wine on the cuts to stop them getting worse and lifted him onto his own donkey. The Samaritan then took the man to an inn to take care of him.

The next day, the Samaritan took out enough money for the man to rest at the inn until he was well again. He paid at the front desk and asked them to take care of the man but if he wasn't well in two months the Samaritan would come back and pay for extra costs<sup>5</sup>.

After Jesus finished the story he asked, "Which of the three men do you think was a neighbour to the man who was left hurt on the side of the road?"

The man who asked him the question said, "The one who had wanted to help him."

Jesus told the man, "Go and do the same."

