



Rev A

Adult Education Lesson 2.1

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Ma 12:29-34

## Neighbors - more insight Addendum to Good Samaritan Commentary

Collect

I believe that love of neighbour is not necessarily a physical act like bringing milk and cookies, or fixing a faucet, or anything else that requires two hands. If it were a physical act then people who are physically impaired, or too sick to get up from their beds would be unable to comply with the commandment and so they would be in jeopardy of not being able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. So, if everyone is to have an opportunity to enter the Kingdom of Heaven; obeying the commandment to “love my neighbour as myself” must be possible with or without any physical activity.

What does this suggest? That love of neighbour is a virtue received from God. A virtue like kindness, patience, wisdom, and piety.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan I think that the importance of the story is not in the carnal details, but in the spiritual change that happens in some **listeners** as, through Jesus’s story, God’s grace of **compassion** is ‘switched on’, and they experience God’s compassion for man.

Afterwards, they feel compelled to share this experience with their own neighbors.

Yes we have freedom of choice, but I believe that once having accepted God’s grace, we are under “contract” and are commissioned to do the work that God has planned for us, under that grace. If it is the grace of compassion, then we will feel compelled to help our neighbors spiritually, or physically, and we will not hesitate.

Amori Christi et Ecclesiae— Glen C. Miller OSV



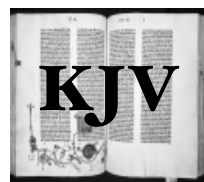
Glen Miller



See parable of the Good Samaritan for expanded commentary at [www.waeshael.com](http://www.waeshael.com) Sunday lessons

**Much of this tract is commentary - don't take it as Gospel. It is here to encourage meditation and study. Use your gift of discernment, to find the truth.**

### Neighbor



“29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:  
30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.  
31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. [quoted from De 6:4 and Lev 19:18]  
32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:  
33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.  
34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art **not far from the kingdom of God**. And no man after that durst ask him any question.”

Barnes Notes says:

*Not far from the kingdom of God.* Thou who dost prefer the internal to the external worship of God—who hast so just a view of the requirements of the law—canst easily become a follower of me, and art almost fit to be numbered among my disciples. This shows that a proper understanding of the Old Testament, of its laws and requirements, would prepare the mind for Christianity, and fit a man at once to embrace it when presented. One system is grafted on the other, agreeably to [Ga 3:24](#).



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