

Going Deeper-15th Sunday (Year C)

Scripture

The readings this weekend are:

- + Deuteronomy 30:10-14
- + Luke 10:25-37
- + Colossians 1:15-20

Who is your neighbour?

The parable in Luke 10:25-37 can be used as a very fluffy teaching to do good deeds or say nice things. There's nothing wrong with doing good and saying nice things but there is nothing 'nice' and 'fluffy' about the context of this parable. A man is beaten and we see people walking past him until someone, who is not supposed to get on with this man, stops and going the extra mile, looks after him.

This is not just a teaching about being kind and helpful; it's about stepping out and going beyond the normal. It would have been so inconvenient for the Samaritan to stop, take time to help bandage the man's wounds and then take him to an inn and to pay for it! This parable teaches that we are to go further than just a kind word or a small gesture. Our actions should be sacrificial. It may cost us money and time to serve God and to serve others but that is what we are called to do. We may need to sacrifice a football match to visit a friend who needs a listening ear. We may need to sacrifice a take-away so that we can send in a donation to help someone receive clean water. There are many examples that don't always involve money but they do include showing mercy at a cost.

Colossians 1:15-20 expresses the supremacy of Jesus, the image of the invisible God. Jesus showed his sacrificial love and mercy for us by not only giving us a perfect example to follow in His life but by dying on the Cross for our sins too. This parable is about following the example of the Samaritan and of Jesus. *'We love because he first loved us'* 1 John 4:19.