

Bringing it Home For Sunday, July 13, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



Do you have any enemies? I hope not.

How about people you just don't get along with, and maybe avoid? That can happen, and sometimes we don't know why. But that doesn't make those people your enemies.

How about the opposite team when you're playing sports? Or fans of the opposite team? Maybe you are a fan of the Yankees, and you know some Red Sox fans. That can happen all the time. You disagree about which team is better, but that doesn't make you enemies.

Grownups sometimes have big disagreements about politics. Sometimes even in the same family. But your cousins are still your cousins, and your uncle is still your uncle. The grownups may argue, but it doesn't make them enemies. At least, it shouldn't.

In Jesus's time, the Jewish people and the Samaritan people just didn't get along. They both worshipped God, but they didn't agree on where to worship him, or which books of the Bible were important. Each group thought the other group was wrong. Disagreements about God can get very nasty. So Jewish people and Samaritan people wanted nothing to do with each other.

But in Jesus's story, when a traveler was robbed and hurt and left in a ditch, the only person who stopped to help was a Samaritan!

This must have really shocked the people who heard the story. Because Jesus was telling them -- and us -- to treat other people with kindness and generosity, even when they don't look like us or talk like us or go to the same school as we do or even worship like us.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for reminding us that we should treat other people like we would want to be treated. Amen.

This week's gospel reading: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is

written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Artwork: *The Good Samaritan*, by David Teniers the Younger (Flemish, Antwerp 1610–1690 Brussels). From Marquand Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.