

Luke 10:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Analysis

Jesus begins His most famous parable in response to a lawyer's question 'Who is my neighbor?' The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descended 3,300 feet over 17 miles through desolate rocky terrain notorious for bandits, making this scenario immediately recognizable to His audience. The phrase 'fell among thieves' (Greek 'lēstais'—robbers/bandits) and 'half dead' establishes the man's complete helplessness and desperate need. This parable uniquely appears in Luke's Gospel, emphasizing his theme of God's compassion for the helpless and breaking down ethnic and religious barriers.

Historical Context

The Jericho road was a dangerous route even in Jesus' time, requiring travelers to band together for safety. The priest and Levite who pass by (verses 31-32) would have had religious concerns about ritual purity from touching what might be a corpse, illustrating how religious rules can sometimes conflict with mercy.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Who are the 'half dead' people in your life that you have passed by due to inconvenience or discomfort?
2. How does this parable challenge your definition of who deserves your compassion and help?

Interlinear Text

ἀπολαβὼν	δέ	ό	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	Ἄνθρωπός	τις
answering	And	G3588	Jesus	said	man	A certain
G5274	G1161		G2424	G2036	G444	G5100
κατέβαινεν	ἀπὸ	Ἰερουσαλὴμ	εἰς	Ἰεριχὼ	καὶ	λῃσταῖς
went down	from	Jerusalem	to	Jericho	and	thieves
G2597	G575	G2419	G1519	G2410	G2532	G3027
περιέπεσεν	οἵ	καὶ	ἐκδύσαντες	αὐτὸν	καὶ	πληγὰς
fell among	which	and	of his raiment	him	and	wounded
G4045	G3739	G2532	G1562	G846	G2532	G4127
ἐπιθέντες	ἀπῆλθον	ἀφέντες	ἡμιθανῆ	τυγχάνοντα		
G2007	him and departed	leaving	him half dead	G5177		
	G565	G863	G2253			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 88:4 (Parallel theme): I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength:

Luke 18:31 (References Jerusalem): Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

Luke 19:28 (References Jerusalem): And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 51:52 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

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