

Luke 10:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Analysis

The Samaritan's actions demonstrate costly love: 'And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him' (καὶ προσελθὼν κατέδησεν τὰ τραύματα αὐτοῦ ἐπιχέων ἔλαιον καὶ οἶνον, ἐπιβιβάσας δὲ αὐτὸν ἐπά τὸ ἴδιον κτῆνος ἤγαγεν αὐτὸν εἰς πανδοχεῖον καὶ ἐπεμελήθη αὐτοῦ). Each action involves personal sacrifice: oil and wine for wounds (expensive commodities), his own animal (walking while the victim rides), time and effort at the inn. The verb 'epimeleomai' (ἐπεμελήθη, took care) indicates careful, ongoing attention. This models gospel ministry—meeting physical needs, personal involvement, costly sacrifice.

Historical Context

First-century medical practice used oil (soothing) and wine (antiseptic due to alcohol content) for wound treatment. Inns (πανδοχεῖον, pandocheion, literally 'all-receiving place') along major roads provided lodging for travelers, though they had unsavory reputations. The Samaritan's willingness to personally escort the victim and pay expenses (v.35) demonstrates extraordinary generosity in a culture where such kindness to strangers (especially ethnic enemies) was virtually unknown. The two denarii he paid (v.35) represented two days' wages—significant expense.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the Samaritan's costly, personal involvement challenge superficial or distant forms of charity?
2. In what ways does this parable illustrate gospel truths about Christ's saving work and Christian responsibility?

Interlinear Text

καὶ προσελθὼν κατέδησεν τὰ τραύματα αὐτοῦ
And went to him and bound up G3588 wounds him
G2532 G4334 G2611 G5134 G846

ἐπιχέων ἔλαιον καὶ οἶνον ἐπιβιβάσας δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ¹
pouring in oil And wine set and him on
G2022 G1637 G2532 G3631 G1913 G1161 G846 G1909

τὸ ἕδιον κτῆνος ἤγαγεν αὐτοῦ εἰς πανδοχεῖον καὶ
G3588 his own beast and brought him to an inn And
G2398 G2934 G71 G846 G1519 G3829 G2532

ἐπεμελήθη αὐτοῦ
took care him
G1959 G846

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 147:3 (Parallel theme): He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Romans 12:20 (Parallel theme): Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (Parallel theme): See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Mark 14:8 (Parallel theme): She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

Exodus 4:24 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

Genesis 42:27 (Parallel theme): And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

Luke 2:7 (Parallel theme): And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.