

Luke 10:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Analysis

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. The Samaritan's care extends beyond immediate rescue to ongoing provision. The phrase *epi tēn aurion* (ἐπὶ τὴν αὔριον, "on the morrow") shows this wasn't hurried charity—he stayed overnight, monitoring the victim's condition. **Two pence** (duo dēnaria, δύο δηνάρια)—two denarii—represented two days' wages for a laborer, sufficient for extended lodging and care.

The instructions **Take care of him** (epimelēthēti autou, ἐπιμελήθητι αὐτοῦ) use the imperative of *epimeleomai*, meaning to care for diligently, attend carefully. The Samaritan doesn't dump the victim and leave—he arranges ongoing care, accepts financial responsibility, and promises to return. The phrase **whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee** (ho ti an prosdapanēsēs egō en tō epanerchesthai me apodōsō soi, ὅ τι ἀν προσδαπανήσης ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ἐπανέρχεσθαί με ἀποδώσω σοι) constitutes an open-ended commitment—blank check compassion.

This extravagant generosity pictures Christ's redemptive work. Like the Samaritan, Jesus found us beaten, robbed (by sin), left for dead. He provided immediate rescue (justification), ongoing care (sanctification through the Spirit

and church), and promised return to complete our healing (glorification). The 'inn' represents the church, where believers are cared for until Christ returns. The 'two pence' may symbolize Word and Spirit, or the dual command to love God and neighbor—resources for our journey. Commentators through church history have seen this parable as gospel allegory: we are the wounded traveler; Christ is the Samaritan; the inn is the church; the promised return is the Second Coming.

Historical Context

Two denarii (approximately two days' wages) would cover several days at a first-century inn, which provided basic lodging for travelers along major routes. The Samaritan's promise to return and settle any additional costs was legally binding—he made himself personally responsible for a stranger's complete recovery. This radical generosity contrasted sharply with cultural expectations, especially given Jewish-Samaritan animosity. The host (innkeeper) would have found this arrangement unusual but financially attractive—guaranteed payment from a returning customer.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the Samaritan's open-ended financial commitment illustrate the costliness of genuine love?
2. In what ways does this verse picture Christ's ongoing care for believers between His first and second comings?
3. What does the Samaritan's promise to return and repay teach about Christian responsibility to follow through on commitments to help others?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| καὶ | ἐπὶ | τὴν | αὔριον | ἐξελθὼν, | ἐκβαλὼν | δύο | δηνάρια |
| And | on | G3588 | the morrow | when he departed | he took out | two | pence |
| G2532 | G1909 | | G839 | G1831 | G1544 | G1417 | G1220 |
| ἔδωκεν | τῷ | πανδοχεῖ | καὶ | εἶπεν | αὐτῷ | Ἐπιμελήθητι | |
| and gave | G3588 | them to the host | And | said | of him | Take care | |
| G1325 | | G3830 | G2532 | G2036 | G846 | G1959 | |
| αὐτῷ | καὶ | ὅ | τι | ἄν | προσδαπανήσῃς | ἐγὼ | ἐν |
| of him | And | G3739 | G5100 | G302 | thou spendest more | I | come again |
| G846 | G2532 | | | | G4325 | G1473 | G1722 |
| ἐπανέρχεσθαι | με | ἀποδώσω | σοι | | | | |
| G1880 | | when I | will repay | thee | | | |
| | | G3165 | G591 | G4671 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Luke 14:13 (Parallel theme): But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: