

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 14th 2019

Introduction

Jesus' story of The Good Samaritan, we all just heard, in the Gospel, gives us a name, for all those people in our world who step forward and volunteer to help others. There are many of them around. Most of us had the blessing of running into a "Good Samaritan, -- people who helped me jump-start my car, - or gave me directions when I was lost,- or even went out of their way to give me a hand.

The lawyer, in today's gospel, asks a very lawyerly question: "Who is my neighbor?".. Who am I excused from caring about?-- Who can I avoid?

Then the Lord tells us the story of "THE GOOD SAMARITAN". We are all familiar with it!

Always my neighbor, is the person in need,-- who crosses my path.

We try to avoid that powerful challenge and simple truth of the Gospel. For example: "Honor your father and mother" ... Of course! -- But not my father,-- not my mother.-- "Care about your neighbor?" ... Sure! -- But not my neighbors! "Forgive your enemies?" ... Right! ... But not the people who hurt me.

In other words, when the challenge of the Gospel, becomes concrete,- specific and- personal , I become subtle as a tax attorney,- to avoid ways of avoiding it... I take a vacation.

CONCLUSION

The lawyer's question was: "Just who is my neighbor"? The Lord's answer to him and to us is: "Don't worry about that". Just be a neighbor to the person in need, -- who crosses my path...That person is my neighbor,- in God's sight. One message to us all here is be a Good Samaritan to others as Jesus is to me!

AMEN.