

Elder Bobby Willis



“Go And Do Thou Likewise”

As children, we often played games of ‘*Follow the Leader*’ or ‘*Simon Says*.’ Real life can not always be compared with children’s games, however, Jesus taught the disciples and us a lesson in Luke 10:30-37 that is full of meaning for the Children of God. The lesson is about a man that was robbed, beaten, and left for half dead by thieves and what happened after this event. A certain priest passed by and only changed his direction. A Levite did the same thing, but passed on the opposite side. Neither of the men, of a religious background, did any thing to help. Then a Samaritan, who was considered an outcast and thus not to have any dealings with a man from Jerusalem, had compassion on the injured man. He bound up his wounds and brought him to an inn on his own beast to take even better care of him. The next day, when the (good) Samaritan was about to leave, he left money to take care of him even to the point of promising to pay any required future care. We know that not all priests or Levites were without compassion, but these two men should have known better.

Jesus was teaching this lesson concerning what a real neighbour is all about. In Luke 10:37 the Lord told the man who was asking, “**...who is my neighbour**” (vs. 29), that he should “**Go, and do thou likewise.**” Plainly, it is not the Christian thing to pass by someone in the condition of this beaten man, and not even attempt to help. There are times in which we may not be able to help physically, but we can show compassion by praying for them. In Matthew 25:39-40 we find the children of God answering the Lord, “**...when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee.**” Notice what the Lord tells them, “**And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**” Jesus was referring to acts of compassion done for others as if we had done it unto Jesus Himself.

Another reference is made in Mark 9:41 when the Lord said, “**For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to**

Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.” This is not eternal as eternity is an inheritance - not a reward. Our rewards are on this earth and Jesus is saying that the one giving the **“cup of water to drink in my name”** is blessed for doing so.

There are many similar lessons taught in the word of God which are good for us to **“go, and do thou likewise.”** Have you shown compassion to someone lately, or did you just **“pass by on the other side”**? *Think About IT!*