

The Lord's Common Sense is Counter-Intuitive for Most People

For most people, common sense means something other than what it means in God's Word. I'd bet that around 90% of all people see common sense issues arising out of what's in their own best interests. Even where their loved-ones are concerned, I don't think most people have the capacity to truly put them ahead of their own concerns. So when you find someone who's really capable of doing so, it's cause for celebration.

In today's reading, two out of three people who had the opportunity to make a difference in the life of one man who'd been beaten and robbed, chose to ignore the circumstances in front of them for reasons not specified, but the subject matter of an unbelievable amount of Theological speculation.

Here's the story; In fact here are two; They're classics, and they're two of my favorite parables that are often used to prove a point. The first one involves a New Testament era Attorney who proved he did have the capacity for both legal, and human, good sense. Whether he chose to follow his better judgement is a whole other discussion. Tragically, most of the people of his era, as the story will attest, did not.

Here are the stories:

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

At the Home of Martha and Mary

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

I find it very interesting how these two unrelated, but powerfully compelling, stories follow one right behind the other in the Scripture.

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack