

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 10

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee!”**

Luke 10:25–37 *And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”* And he answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

In the Name of Jesus:

What wondrous love is this? To raise us from what we DO all day long to LIFE—our Savior, Christ, the Lord, runs the ultimate risk: He dares to insult us, our proud selves! In its FULNESS, this affront will take the form of His stripped and mock-ed self playing ‘King’ One Day; a King no one has it in him to acclaim. And, yet, ‘Follow Me!’

Ah! My dear ones! He’s been an OUTRAGE from the get-go!

EMPTYING heaven when Mary delivered her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, ‘cuz all the other beds were full! And then: vacuuming heaven of every last creature beyond us, for now. Whose practiced choir piece, from their creation, has been taught THEM...FOR...US!!!!.....:

‘NOW—only now, when Heaven is DESERTED, is Heaven in its GLO-RY! And men on earth have the goodwill of Heaven because HE has made Peace! But you will find God-Heaven-King-Glory-Peace-Goodwill...FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS!...where no man has it in him to look! That’s where we send you!’ “When the angels had left them and gone back up to the sky—so someone would be there!—the shepherds then got their heads together and went where they’d been told!’

All ‘lawyer-jokes’ aside, the lawyer who rose up—BEHOLD!—to TEST Jesus: LOVE...HIM, my dear, dear saints! ‘Cuz HE, that lawyer, was on guard and sensitive to the Offense that is this baby, this weak King. And—FOR...US...ALL!!!!.....

That lawyer was brave enough to say out loud what WE practice in order to pretend: that our Baptism into Christ is our first, last and only hope! For the King Who gave that washing is so small and tiny and crucify-able—WAS, at least!—that He can go about this world back then, and NOW by His Spirit, in His Church—and make no distinctions at all! Just ANYONE can be rained on by Hurricane, Tropical Storm Barry; Depression 92L.

What WE make of life—what TV does, the paper, the horrible, horrible internet and the demons who have machined it!—you can tell from the screeching and howling and foulness and warfare...

There MUST BE a distance, a distinction, a QUALITY-DIFFERENCE, between ‘up there’ and ‘down here,’ between heaven and earth, God and man, life and death—

And we religious types—right, my dearies?!!!—we’re on board for learning all about that ‘GAP.’ More than that! We are invested in learning about the overcoming of that GAP. We even volunteer! The lawyer speaks for us! ‘If there is

A...N...Y...T...H...I...N...G I CAN DO to sew up the rip, seal rupture, T...E...L...L...M...EEEEEEEE! I will do ANYTHING, to make sure that I AM on a track more hopeful than the basket of deplorables among whom I must live!!!!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?! No wonder He was spit on and punched and spit on and whipped and spit on and crucified. He was determined—HEAVEN was determined!—and His Spirit has NOTHING ELSE on His ‘to-do’ list, today, than to rescue someone as disgusting as the lawyer! And it ain’t got nuttin’ t-do with him being a lawyer! It has to do with how that man has exposed your poor pastor’s heart. And—follow Him!—your heart too.

ALL that the Old, hopeless man in us can do is do WRONG and yet pretend that he AIN’T as wrong the way others is wrong; SOOOOO...wrong!

Jesus saved that man, made peace with that man and offended heaven, by His incarnation, suffering, crucifixion, burial, rising, ascent to BE heaven. And by the sending of His Holy Spirit, to gather His Church for the End.

And at the End, the Church will receive what it is praying for, yearning for: our final redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

Until the End, it’s all temptation, testing—pushing away love, and faith, and giving hope!

So there are times the Lord needs to slam the door, or slap the face—however He CAN upset our tranquil superior selves....

The lawyer could not even say the word! Answer Jesus! ‘Who was NEIGHBOR to the man in distress?’

The ANSWER, my dear ones, is ‘The SAMARITAN!’ But—praise the Lord for this passage!—the lawyer cannot even spit the word OUT! Not even in the presence of his Savior! Who remains

Savior, nevertheless! ‘The/one/who/showed/compassion...
Whoever he was’....

My Guiding Star at the Seminary offended my majesty one day when he dared say to me, ‘It is a shock, isn’t it, to find out that a man is NOT as bad as we had hoped he would be!’ Oooohhh...I could not stand that professor!

When it comes to ape-ing God, my dear ones, all we actually do is ape the devil. SONS of heaven, children of God, do not FRET over how to lasso the Father’s attention, grab His heart, His ears, His will, His love.

I have a great video of my grandson, Samuel Paul. He has learned not only WHAT to pray, but HOW to pray! ‘Da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da...’ The next video my grandson, Samuel Paul’s mother sent was of SamPaul ‘Da-da-da-ing,’ and Dada asking, ‘Where’s that plug for his mouth?!’

He’s a great father; but only has so much in himself.

The Father of Christ, our Peace, only wears out when we DO NOT call on Him as our dear Father! When does that happen? When we start to wonder in our heart, on our face, to other children of God: ‘Is heaven paying ANY attention to ME?! How can I get it?! Is God favoring someone ELSE?!’

Pray for the next poor child of Peter and Jessica to come along. When the king must share the throne. Poor number two!

Take that as our Gospel, my dear ones! The Son shares the Father—gives Him utterly to us! The King shares His throne!

When the next person is beat up by this devil-world—you can tell; he’ll be misbehaving, in unbelief and despair—don’t worry about justifying YOURSELF! Justify the poor sinner! As your Offensive King came to do. Follow Him!

And it may even fall to you or me to let the next man, in his superiority, learn the lesson of the Samaritan in his compassion: even those YOU may hope to find out are so bad, may daily and much outshine YOU! Now, who needs a Savior? Got One! Our Lord! Our King! And a Father above with us to the End in the Name of Jesus.