

Stories About Us

Luke 10:25-37

Let me tell you something about the ostrich. The ostrich has a poor memory, the original “bird brain” about the size of a pea. When she lays her eggs she buries them in the sand, so that predators cannot find them. However, if she takes her eyes off the place where she buried them, she will forget where she hid them, and they will die of neglect, or in time, the predator will discover them. Therefore, the ostrich will go about her day never taking one of her big eyes off the place where her eggs lie. Her children are her heritage, the insurance of her species living forward into the future. They are the love of her life. She must not get so distracted that she would forfeit her relationship with her lifeblood and her future. She must remember what’s truly important.

So, it is with Jesus. No matter what your day entails, if you fix your eyes on Jesus, you will know where your treasure lies. But if you are distracted by the things of the world, and forget to keep your mind fixed on Jesus, you will find suddenly one day, when you need it most, your faith is not there.

A parable is a story. It contains levels of meaning and hidden truths. A good parable reveals not just the meaning of the story, but something inside of you! It opens YOU up to new understandings, new revelations, a new experience of life, and allows your life to change. A parable is a powerful medium of revelation.

You can’t just read a parable on a surface level, you have to delve into it, to reveal what is hidden below the surface. When you dig down to reveal the roots, you also reveal your relationship with God, your life, your mistakes. You explore the depths and crevices of your own life.

We must not let the distractions of the world become our identity. But like the ostrich, keep our eyes on Jesus who gives us our identity, even as we reveal ourselves to and in Him. However, we need to hear those parables in ways we can understand. We live in a world with different people, language, and circumstances than in Jesus’ day. But still, the messages can hit us hard.

I want to invite YOU to participate with me in (re)creating the parable that was read this morning. The one we call the “Good Samaritan.”

There was a Christian person who was traveling from Augusta to Bangor on their motorcycle.

This person was very vulnerable, and was traveling in bad weather on treacherous highway,

So, they hit a slippery spot in the road and began spinning out of control. The bike toppled sending the person crashing to the road surface, leaving them hurt and unconscious.

There was a pastor driving that way on his way to a conference meeting. He was already late. He saw a rumpled, lifeless body lying by the side of the road. But being in a hurry to get to his meeting, he figured he was drunk. He looked like he might be bleeding, but he was afraid to stop. He could always call the police when he got to the church. But as he met his colleagues and ran late into the meeting, the moment had passed, and he had forgotten.

Then there was a church Deacon who came upon the accident. They were in a rush to get to their Bible Study. They did not want to miss this week's study. After all it was a study by Amy Jill Lavine. Seeing the person lying on the side of the road they thought about stopping but thinking others would have reported the accident drove on.

Then a woman going by saw the accident and the man lying on the road. She stops, gets out of her car, goes and checks the man's pulse, finding he is alive, she gets the injured man into her own car, and takes him to the hospital. The person has no insurance, no ID, so the woman writes a check for several thousand dollars, and leaves her own ID, so that she can be billed for the remainder of the services necessary for this person.

This is out of the ordinary, isn't it? Would you do that? Now....let me tell you something elsethis woman...is Muslim. Now answer this question: Who is the true "Christian neighbor?"

What does this mean for you? For this church?

What did we learn from this parable? About risk taking? About Jesus' expectations of us? About what it means to stand before God and say, Here I am.

Only when you answer God's call, do you know "where you are" and "whose you are."

God is calling us to continue the service and work that is happening here at HSCC.

God is calling us to throw open our doors to all and to welcome them to the table.

God is calling us to see those in need and to stop even in our busy lives and care for them.

God is calling us to commit our lives to serving with our time, our talents, and our resources.