



still waters

home church studies

psalm 82

[Worship]

1 God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah 3 Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince."

Consider:

"Two fiendish Princeton sociologists exposed the whole game. They put a group of seminary students in a room, read them this parable, then asked them to go at varying intervals, one at a time, to a building next door, where half would give extemporaneous sermonettes on the parable and the other half would talk about ministry as a vocation. An actor was planted beside the sidewalk who feigned distress. The real test was to see how many of these Christians, their heads full of this parable of compassion, would actually stop. Only 40 percent did."

It is interesting how we can hear this parable over-and-over, wanting to identify with the "Good Samaritan," thinking of ourselves as the righteous neighbor. I want to be this guy—don't you?

[Think & Pray...]

Only, as we look closer at what Jesus is saying, we find someone who is quite marginalized himself—being a lousy Samaritan half-bread. Other than that, we don't know much about him; does he cheat on his taxes; is he rude to his wife and children; is he a carouser; etc. I don't believe that his sin is the point. Possibly, in finding identity with imperfect people, we find ourselves drawn more toward the ministry of liberating others if we feel their pain. Perhaps that is the point Jesus is making.

As we openly share our woundedness, others are enabled to bring their wounds into the open for healing. What is your picture of your wounds - the ways you have "fallen among robbers." How does this make you God's tool of healing?

[The Scripture]

luke 10.25-37

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 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." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." 29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."