

Our Reasonable Service

Luke 10:30-37

Introduction: If you were on your way to church and you saw someone in obvious need of help should you stop? Understand you might be late or even miss services altogether. If that happened you know you would have to explain your actions to Sister Busybody. It would probably just be your luck that the next sermon you hear would be on “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25). You tell yourself that other members miss services for far less noble a purpose; you would be acting as the Good Samaritan. But if you stopped would you be pleasing the Lord?

I. Our religion is not a religious affiliation.

A. Religion defined:

1. “Outward expression of spiritual devotion” (Zondervan).
2. “Outward religious service” (Youngs).
3. “Signifies religion in its external aspects” (Vines).
4. “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit [care for] orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27).

B. Religion is doing God’s will (Jas. 1:22-25).

C. For example, a person who cannot control his words is not religious (Jas. 1:26; 3:8-10).

D. Unfortunately, the world seems to think religion is where a person attends church. Did James say that religion was going to church (Jas.1:27)?

II. Religion is service.

A. As we serve others we serve God (Matt. 25:31-40).

B. Religion is what we practice as ministers of God (2 Cor. 6:4-10). Things are not as they seem. The truly religious are not often held in high regard.

C. Our sacrifice to live acceptably to God is our religion and our reasonable service (Rom. 12:1-2). Therefore, we should stop and help those in distress!

III. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

A. Who was religious in the parable (the Priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan)?

B. By worldly standards we would have to say the Priest and the Levite. They are the ones that have a religious affiliation. However, they did not practice their religion (ironic).

C. Jesus' point seems to be those whom we would expect to be the most neighborly are not among those claiming to be religious but among those who practice their religion.

D. The story was told of a man who was walking by the city park late at night. He heard a lady's screams in the park. For a moment he debated whether he should get involved, possibly put his life in danger or just walk on by. He decided to go the aide of the screaming lady and he managed to scare away her attacker. Imagine his surprise and how troubled he would have felt if he hadn't got involved after the rescued lady said to him, "Thank you, Daddy!"

Conclusion: If we are religious, we will help those in distress. It matters not whether you were on your way to church services or just on a walk in the city park. Religious is what we are every day of the week and religion is everyone's reasonable service.