

The Good Samaritan. We've heard this gospel parable and homily reflections upon it more times than we can count. As Disciples of Jesus we are to BE and ACT as Good Samaritans. Wouldn't it be wonderful if in life and upon our death, we were remembered as being a Good Samaritan?

The character of the story to think about today is the one who received mercy; to ponder the one who was the recipient of the kindness and generosity of the Good Samaritan. The fact of the matter is that ultimately, we are always in need and God is the first Good Samaritan. And then as we go through life, we encounter a variety of Good Samaritans who come to our aid and comfort.

Think about times in our lives when we felt stripped, naked and vulnerable; times when we were beaten down, felt half dead, thought no one cared; times when we were robbed of our money, health or reputation. Was there someone who entered our situation and became a Good Samaritan to us?

Remember when we were sick at home, having surgery in the hospital or lost a loved one. Good Samaritans checked on us, ran errands, visited us, sent us a card expressing care and concern. They called to see how we were doing.

Call to mind the occasions when we were low on hope or full of discouragement or riddled with anxiety. A Good Samaritan lifted our spirits through a phone call; told us a joke that surprised us and suddenly we were laughing; or told us a story that got our minds off of our worries.

Each of us here today has been on the receiving end of many random acts of kindness by Good Samaritans. Today and this week, think about the Good Samaritans who have been a part of our lives. Thank them. Pray for them.

My sisters and brothers: Daily give God praise for blessing us with so many Good Samaritans.