

**The Bad Samaritan**  
**Luke 10:25-37 | 11 July 2010**  
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Kindness of strangers: to trust or not to trust

Lost cell phone – what is it worth?

Found wallet – take the money leave everything else

Is there such a thing as a bad Samaritan – that is, someone who takes something for their services because of some belief that society owes them?

Perception of strangers, the other, persons who are different

Determines how we treat persons

People are out to get us – we can do anything we wish to them

People are people – we will be inclined to kindness and a little humanity

Jesus' story

Lawyer is not sincere – wishes to entrap Jesus

Jesus treats him as if he is

Lawyer gets the answer to his own question right, but wants to fine tune the definition of neighbor

Jesus tells his story

Priest and Levite should be the heroes – their religious convictions should have compelled them to do something rather than nothing

Samaritan should be the villain – Samaritans were the other: different religious observance, different ethnicity, enemies of Israel.

End of the story is crucial – question is answered from the perspective of the victim, the man in the ditch.

The persons he should have expected help from failed him

The person he should **not** have expected help from came through

Point of the story: If our religion does not lift a hand to help someone in genuine need, what good is it.

Jesus is calling his hearers and us to learn a new way of being God's people in the world and a new way of understanding God's kingdom

No one is a stranger; everyone is a child of God and brother and sister of one another.

Eternal life belongs to the good Samaritans of the world.