



# God is Good!

by Eddy Simon

"Give and it will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over into your lap." The Lord has given me so much.

One of the things he gives me from time to time comes in the form of an idea. I was thinking the other day about the parable of the good Samaritan. It is probably one of the best known parables of the Gospels. The man who was attacked by robbers and badly beaten would have surely died if it weren't for the help of the good Samaritan. In its simplest form it is of course a teaching about caring for each other. The victim in this parable needed medical attention, food, clothing and shelter to be restored to good physical health. This time however it struck me in a rather different way.

It's only natural to see things with our human eyes but with prayer we can see things with eyes of the Holy Spirit. When we see a man whose body is bruised and bleeding we are inclined to help if we are conscientious at all. But, Jesus is always prompting us to take a step further, to see the spiritual reality around us. How do we react when we see someone who is dying spiritually? How do we recognize someone who is in danger of dying a spiritual death and is it not of much greater importance? A person who is dying spiritually is one who is steeped in immorality and sin instead of bruises and blood. And how do we react to such a person?

I was thinking about how Jesus used the example of a Levite and a priest as the ones who passed by the dying man. They even purposely avoided him by going to the other side of the road. He could have used any example but he chose these two. It occurred to me that the Levite and the priest were men who obviously believed in God but in Jesus' portrayal they were missing the greater point. It reminded me of how I sometimes react when I see a person who is an obvious sinner or that I know is living immorally. Sometimes my reaction tends to be one of repulsion rather than compassion. Jesus reacted to sinners with great compassion.

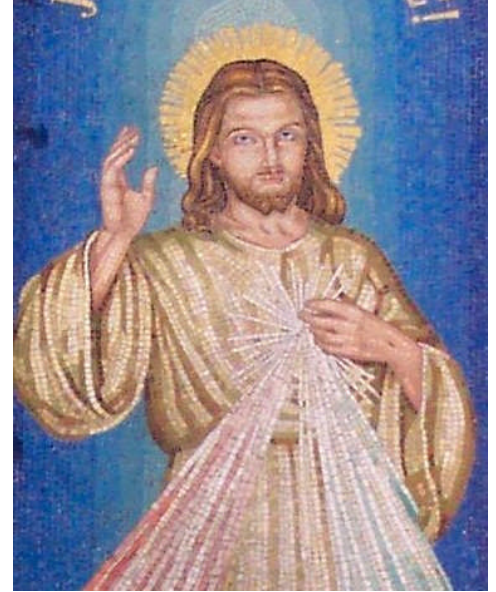
We are all on a spiritual journey. The man dying on the side of the road becomes the man (or woman) dying on the side of the spiritual path that we are all called to. The robbers become (perhaps) the devil and his cohorts who want to strip us of what goodness we may have and inflict spiritual wounds in the process, leaving us for dead. Another thing that the Lord brought to my attention was that the victim in the parable was alone, making him more vulnerable. As the body of Christ we are all members of the communion of saints and accompanied by a myriad of Angels. We should never let ourselves become spiritually isolated.

On our spiritual path we may find ourselves almost anywhere; at work, at home, at the supermarket or even at church. Are we seeing people dying at the side of the road (spiritually) and passing them by? When a co-worker is using God's name to curse do we cross to the other side of the road? Do we react with repulsion or compassion? The medical attention, food, clothing and shelter become spiritual aid. They may need forgiveness, patience, kindness, love or prayer. They may need wisdom, knowledge or understanding. These are all gifts that have been given to us freely. People who are losing their soul (spiritual death) are in need of spiritual care.

Jesus summed up all the law and the prophets in two commands; love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself. Then someone asked him, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with the parable of the good Samaritan. In order to help someone I have to give of myself. I may have to be patient with someone who is angry. I may have to forgive someone who is offending me. I may have to love someone who hates me. The needs of the spiritually dying are greater than the needs of the physically dying and so the giving demands more. But don't be afraid, "Give and it will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over into your lap." GOD IS GOOD.



## Join the Missionary Community in Prayer



The missionaries of St. Luke's invite you to join them in their daily prayer. See our winter schedule below.

**Sunday Mass:** 1PM

**Adoration (Mon-Fri):** 9:30PM-4:30PM

Monday – Friday Schedule:

9:00AM	Rosary
9:20AM	Morning Prayer
3:00PM	Hour of Great Mercy
4:15PM	Evening Prayer
4:30PM	Mass

**Please note:** the church is locked from 3PM-4PM so the community can gather for silent adoration. If you would like to join us please arrive prior to 3PM.

## Winter Health Fair 2009

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 is the date for our annual Winter Health Fair at St. Luke's. As always, health care providers and agencies are welcome to join our exhibitors, educators and screeners in this wonderful event. Our health fairs feature not only health information and screening, but also include nutritional information and a healthy array of delicious treats! The details:

Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

11:30AM-1:30PM

St. Luke's Dining Room

Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving, and clean-up, as well as registration. If you are a health care professional or someone interested in volunteering, call Dave Marciniak at 880-5981. Thanks!