

March 17, 2021

Read Luke 10

Key verse: Luke 10:33

*But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.*

### **Our Mission Is So Important**

While I've been slowly and systematically working my way through the Old Testament, presenting the devotional readings sequentially, today I am compelled to break that trend and write about an important topic: Racism.

The topic hit home for me this morning as I read of the horrible murder of six women of Asian descent in the vicinity of Atlanta, GA. My thought immediately went to my wife, who so many of you know and love. She's a brave woman for leaving her family in South Korea to come live in the United States, a country that I still believe has great values and great promise, but a country that is suffering from illnesses that are worse than any those that any virus could bring about. Those illnesses: Racism, misogyny, and homophobia, and all three are well-entrenched in many churches.

And yet I believe that the Church is humanity's best hope. Our message is all about hope, hope for transformation of the world, for transformation of a human nature that is all too prone fear and violence. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus intentionally crafts the story to show not only the virtue of caring for the stranger but also how the stranger we hate can be our truest neighbor. Remember that when you meet someone whose skin is a different color than your own, whose language is different from the language you use, whose choice of soul-mate is not what you might have expected, but who – like you – is a beloved child of the one true God.

**Prayer:** God of love who embraces all people, forgive us for our fears of the stranger that cause us to devalue, despise, and hate others. Remind us, Lord, of our mission as Christians, to live our lives as new creations in Christ, who taught us to see the beauty in each other. Amen.