

# The Story to End the Excuses

## 結束藉口的故事

Jesus gave a simple command: “Love your neighbor.” However, “neighbor” is pretty vague, and some wise guy asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus answered with the story about a traveler on the way to Jericho who was ambushed by thieves, beaten, robbed, and left for dead. Two people passed him by but didn't stop to help.

耶穌給了我們一個簡單的誡命：「愛人如己。」（註：英文聖經寫「愛鄰居如自己」。）然而，「鄰居」的定義相當模糊，所以一個自作聰明的人問耶穌「誰是我的鄰居？」

耶穌以一個故事回答，祂說有一個旅行者在往耶利哥城的路上，遭到強盜的伏擊，被毆打、搶劫，在路上快要死了。有兩個人從他身邊經過，但沒有停下來幫忙他。







The first is a priest. Dressed in his finest synagogue robes, perhaps he's working on a sermon he plans to give later in the day. His mind is full of his own importance, he meditates on the law, and congratulates himself on following it to the letter.

Perhaps the priest is taken aback when he sees the bleeding man on the road. The man's clothes are torn and dirty, so it's hard to determine his social standing. The priest takes a step closer, but doesn't recognize him. Maybe he tells himself he can't afford to be late, he can't afford to get his good clothes dirty, and with that, his mind is made up. He averts his eyes and passes by on the other side of the road.

第一個人是祭司。他穿著他最好的猶太會堂長袍，也許正在草擬他計畫在當天遲些時候要說的講道。他腦子裡想的全是有關自己有多麼重要，他在默想猶太律法，並慶幸自己有多麼遵循律法行事。

也許祭司看到路上那個受傷流血的人時嚇了一跳。那個人的衣服又破又髒，所以很難看出他的社會地位如何。祭司又更靠近一點，但無法辨別那人。也許他告訴自己，他不能遲到，他不能把他的好衣服弄髒，所以他決定轉移目光，從路的另一邊經過。





The sun climbs higher in the sky, and buzzards begin to circle overhead. In the heat of the day, a Levite comes along. He too is hurrying along, his mind racing as he plans out his day in Jericho. Then he stumbles upon the beaten traveler, not looking any better for the high-noon heat.

Immediately the Levite starts worrying about the thieves returning; maybe he fears being robbed as well. So he passes on by.

日頭在天空中更為高升，禿鷲開始在上方盤旋。在一天中最炎熱的時候，一位利未人走了過來。他也在匆匆前行，他正在思想他在耶利哥城計畫要做的事情。之後，他發現那個被打傷的旅行者，在炙熱的正午之下，他的狀況看來似乎更糟。

那個利未人立刻開始擔心強盜會回來；也許他也害怕會被搶，所以他就經過那位傷者而去了。



The poor traveler, weak and dying, is ready to give up hope. Another hour passes before the next person comes along. This time, however, the wounded man doesn't even have hope that he will stop. You see, the man coming along the road is a Samaritan.

There was no love lost between the Jews and the Samaritans. The Jews despised the Samaritans, and had cursed and maligned them for centuries. Though their cultures were similar, and the Samaritans professed the same faith, they were considered second-rate believers, unworthy to be part of the Jewish nation. Samaritans were cursed in Jewish synagogues, they couldn't serve as witnesses in court, and Jews believed they were excluded from the afterlife.

這個可憐的旅行者，人既虛弱、且在垂死，準備就此放棄被救活的希望。又過了一個小時，下一個人出現了。然而這一次，他甚至不抱希望那人會停下來。原因是，那人原來是個撒瑪利亞人。

猶太人和撒瑪利亞人之間是互不來往的。猶太人藐視撒瑪利亞人，數世紀以來，一直在詛咒、誹謗他們。雖然他們的文化相似，撒瑪利亞人也宣稱有同樣的信仰，但他們被猶太人認為是二流的信徒，不配成為猶太民族的一部分。撒瑪利亞人在猶太人會堂裡會受到詛咒，他們不能在法庭上充當證人，猶太人相信他們不可能有來生。





When you think about it, the Samaritan had the best excuse for not stopping. And yet he did. He stopped, tended to the wounded man, and carried him on his own donkey to the nearest inn where he could be cared for until he recovered. But he went even further than that. He took two silver coins from his own purse and paid the innkeeper for the wounded man's care, then said, "If that's not enough, I'll pay the rest on my way back."

當你想到這些時，撒瑪利亞人有不停下來的最好藉口。但是他那麼做了。他停下來，照顧那位受傷的人，用自己的驢子把他載到最近的客棧裡，在那裡他可以得到照顧，直到康復為止。他甚至做分外的事，從自己的錢包裡拿出兩枚銀幣給客棧老闆，請他照顧傷者，然後說：「如果這還不夠，我在回來的路上會付你其餘的費用。」







In telling this story, Jesus basically took away any excuses we might make for not loving and caring for others. He was telling us that our neighbor isn't just someone who lives next door to us, but it's anyone we encounter who is in need. Jesus didn't say, "Love your neighbor, but only if he's not too weird." He didn't say, "Love your neighbor, but only until she gossips about you." He didn't say, "Love your neighbors, but only if you like how they look, or if you'd like to have them in your circle of friends."

"Love your neighbor," Jesus says. Full stop.

在講述這個故事時，耶穌基本上在除去我們不愛和不關心他人的任何藉口。祂在告訴我們，我們的鄰居不僅僅是住在隔壁的人，而且是我們遇到的任何需要幫助的人。耶穌沒有說：「要愛你的鄰居，但他必須不是個太怪異的人。」祂沒有說：「要愛你的鄰居，但當她說你的八卦時就不用再愛她了。」祂沒有說：「要愛你的鄰居，但前提是你喜歡他們的外貌，或是喜歡他們加入你的朋友圈裡。」

「要愛你的鄰居，」耶穌說，毫無任何附帶條件可言。





He was telling us to love beyond the little difficulties in our lives—to love and not be choosy or partial. To love even if we've been hurt or mistreated—because that's the way *He* loves. We can all be difficult at times, yet He forgives us each time and keeps loving us regardless. He doesn't expect perfection, and He doesn't withhold His love when we don't deserve it. Jesus gives us His love freely. Just as we freely receive Jesus' love, we should freely give it.

祂告訴我們儘管生活中有小困難，也仍然去愛 - - 去愛，不要挑剔或偏頗。去愛，即使我們曾受到傷害或被錯待，因為這是祂愛人的方式。我們全都有時會很難相處，但祂每次都原諒我們，不管怎麼樣仍然一直愛我們。祂不期望我們完美，而當我們不配得到祂的愛時，祂仍毫無保留地愛我們。

耶穌白白地給予我們祂的愛。我們既然白白地接受到祂的愛，也應該白白地給予它。

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