

The Story to End the Excuses

结束借口的故事

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.

耶稣给了我们一个简单的诫命，“爱人如己。”（注：有些《圣经》写“爱邻居如自己”。）然而，“邻居”的定义相当模糊，所以一个自作聪明的人问耶稣“谁是我的邻居？”

耶稣以一个故事回答，他说有一个旅行者在往耶利哥城的路上，遭到强盗的伏击，被殴打、抢劫，在路上快要死了。有两个人从他身边经过，却没有停下来帮忙他。





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.

第一个人是祭司。他穿着他最好的犹太会堂长袍，也许正在撰写他计划在当天迟些时候要说的讲道。他脑子里想的全是有关自身多么重要，他在默想犹太律法，并庆幸自身多么遵循律法行事。

也许祭司看到路上那个受伤流血的人时吓了一跳。那个人的衣服又破又脏，所以很难看出他的社会地位如何。祭司又靠近一点，却无法辨别那人。也许他告诉自身，他不能迟到，他不能把他的好衣服弄脏，所以他就决定转移目光，从路的另一边经过。



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.

日头在天空中更为高升，秃鹫开始在上方盘旋。在一天中最炎热的时候，一位利未人走了过来。他也在匆匆前行，正在思想他在耶利哥城计画要做的事情。之后，他发现那个被打伤的旅行者，在炙热的正午之下，他的状况看来似乎更糟。

那个利未人立刻开始担心强盗会回来；也许他也害怕会被抢，所以他就经过那位伤者而去了。

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.

这个可怜旅行者，人既虚弱、且在垂死，准备就此放弃被救活的希望。又过了一个小时，下一个人出现了。然而这一次，他甚至不抱希望那人会停下来。原因是，那人原来是个撒玛利亚人。

犹太人和撒玛利亚人之间是互不来往的。犹太人藐视撒玛利亚人，数百年以来，一直在诅咒、诽谤他们。虽然他们的文化相似，撒玛利亚人也宣称有同样的信仰，他们却被犹太人认为是二流的信徒，不配成为犹太民族的一部分。撒玛利亚人在犹太人会堂里会受到诅咒，他们不能在法庭上充当证人，犹太人相信他们不可能有来生。



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."

当你想到这些时，撒玛利亚人有不停下来的最好借口；他却那么做了。他停下来，照顾那位受伤的人，用自身的驴子把他载到最近的客栈里，在那里他能得到照顾，直到康复为止。他甚至做分外的事，从自身的钱包里拿出两枚银币给客栈老闆，让他照顾伤者，然后说，“如果这还不够，我在回来的路上会付你其余的费用。”





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.

在讲述这个故事时，耶稣基本上在除去我们不爱和不关心别人的任何借口。他在告诉我们，我们的邻居不仅仅是住在隔壁的人，而且是我们遇到的任何需要帮助的人。耶稣没有说，“要爱你的邻居，他却必须不是个太怪异的人。”他没有说，“要爱你的邻居，然而当她说你的闲话时就不用再爱她了。”他没有说，“要爱你的邻居，可前提是你喜欢他们的外貌，或是喜欢他们加入你的朋友圈子里。”

“要爱你的邻居，”耶稣说，毫无任何附带条件可言。



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.

他告诉我们尽管生活中有小困难，也仍然去爱——去爱，不要挑剔或偏颇。去爱，即便我们受到伤害或被错待，因为这是他爱人的方式。我们全都有时会很难相处，他却每次都原谅我们，不管怎么样仍然一直爱我们。他不期望我们完美，而当我们不配得到他的爱时，他仍毫无保留地爱我们。

耶稣无偿地给予我们他的爱。我们既然无偿地接受到他的爱，也应该无偿地给予它。

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