



Newsletter – February 2020

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The Good Samaritan

The Gospel According to St. Luke, 10: 25 to 37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert him, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, '**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself**'. 'You have answered right,' said Jesus 'do this and life is yours.' But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'and who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a Priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the inn keeper "Look after him" he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expenses you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him' he replied. Jesus said to him. 'Go, and do the same yourself'.

Case 1

A retired man in his 60's went to the ATM machine to withdraw some cash for his monthly expenses. He noticed that an elderly woman at the next ATM machine was desperately looking for some assistance. When she looked up to him he just glanced away pretending not to see her. He had his own fear as there were too many money laundering cases recently and so he avoided the elderly women. Therefore, she asked for help from a teenage student in the queue behind her. The student willingly assisted the elderly woman and both when off happily with a smile.

Case 2

On her way to work in the morning, Mary encountered a senior woman with her daughter at the MRT station. The daughter requested for assistance. "Please, assist to alight my mother at the designated MRT station as she (daughter) is late for work". As everyone was rushing for work, Mary felt uncomfortable and strange as she didn't know how to respond to her request. She also felt it should be the daughter's responsibility for the safety of the elderly woman. Sensing her reservation, the daughter immediately approached another person for assistance and her mother alighted at the designated station. Meanwhile the daughter continued her journey.

Case 3

One weekend, two migrant workers from the same organisation had a quarrel. One of them was drunk and disturbed the peace in their dormitory. After a while one of his colleagues became agitated and hit the drunkard worker and in the process of struggle both were hurt quite badly. Therefore, the security department of the dormitory called the emergency ambulance service and the police for assistance. Both of them were hospitalised and detained upon their discharge from the hospital. They were charged by the police for causing grievous hurt to one another. A few days after investigation, both were released from the police station while awaiting a follow up action from the Police. Meanwhile, upon returning to work some of their colleagues and the Human Resource department felt sad and sympathised with them because they may be deported back to their native country. Many felt both were wrong and would be certainly deported. The two of them felt very bad and wanted to appeal to the Police. One concerned local supervisor from their department counselled them and took them to HOME to seek Legal Assistance from the migrant support group. Eventually, both of them were released with a final warning from the Police after six months of investigation. Until their final release, they were mentally very troubled by their predicaments. They were happy with the support of their supervisor and their Legal Advisor and were grateful for their generosity and time. As a sign of their appreciation, they bought some simple gift for their colleagues and supervisor.

Case 4

A migrant worker came to a Church seeking solace and peace as there were charges against him. He was accused of outrage of modesty by one of his female fellow colleagues. He came to the Church to meet the Priest for his blessing and to have a listening ear for his confession. However, the Priest after listening to him told him that he is unable to help him since it is a Police case. This migrant worker was disappointed to some extent with the Priest. However, he was quite relieved after meeting one of our CFMS facilitators who had a listening ear and who had no prejudice against him. After reviewing the CCTV footage, the police closed his case. The migrant worker who had great faith in God was so relieved when his case was closed. He was happy that truth stands out even with all the difficulties. He thanked God by offering mass for himself and his family.

See

- a. Regarding the 4 cases, what was happening and why did the above happen? What are consequences?
- b. Who are the key characters in the Good Samaritan?
- c. What does each character signify?
- d. Why did each character respond differently?
- e. What would be the possible consequence/s without the Good Samaritan?

Personal reflection:

- a. What did I learnt from the different actions of the key characters in the gospel?
- b. How do I feel about the gospel text and the above 4 cases?

Christian Reflection

- a. If Jesus is present among us what would be his other key message to us (apart from the above) in such situations.
- b. What does The Social Teachings, The Encyclicals and The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us in the above situations?

Our Responses:

- a. What can I/We do
 - as an individual family member?
 - as a CFMS member?
 - as a CFMS Movement? and
 - as a Parishioner within the Church and Society?

ANNOUNCEMENT 

CFMS Annual General Meeting

CFMS members and their families are warmly invited to the CFMS AGM.

Date: Saturday, 29 February 2020

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Venue: CANA, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954