

Interpreting Parables

Read this interpretation of the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). What is your opinion about this understanding of the passage?

<p>^{10:30}Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹"And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²"Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³"But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on <i>them</i>; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵"On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you." ³⁶"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' <i>hands</i>?" ³⁷And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."</p>	<p>The man who fell into the hands of robbers is Adam. Jerusalem is heaven, and Jericho signifies man's mortality. The robbers are the devil and his angels who stripped man of his immortality. In beating him they persuaded him to sin, and in leaving him half dead the devil and his angels have left man in a condition in which he has some knowledge of God but is yet oppressed by sin. The priest represents the law, and the Levite represents the Prophets. The Good Samaritan is Christ who, in bandaging the man's wounds, seeks to restrain sin. Oil is hope and wine is a fervent spirit. The man's donkey is Jesus' incarnation, and the man being placed on a donkey pictures his belief in the incarnation of Christ. The inn is the church. The next day pictures the Lord's resurrection, the two coins represent either the two precepts of love or this life and the life to come. The innkeeper is the Apostle Paul.</p>
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