

OCTOBER 6 2025 FATHER VIJAI AMIRTHARAJ

Once, there was a millionaire who collected live alligators, and he kept them in a pool in the back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful daughter who was single.

One day, he decided to throw a huge party, during which he announced,

"My dear guests, I have a proposition to every young man present here. I will give \$1,000,000, or my daughter, to the man who can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed."

And as soon as he finished his last word, there was a sound of a large splash. And there was this young man in the pool, swimming with all his might, as the crowd kept cheering him. Finally, he made it to the other side unharmed.

The millionaire was impressed, and he said,

"My boy, that was incredible, fantastic. I did not think it could be done. Well, I must keep my end of the bargain. Which do you want, my daughter or \$1 million?"

The guy replied, "Listen, I don't want your money, and I don't want your daughter. I just want the guy who pushed me into the water."

Sisters and brothers, in a world where some people are willing to push others down rather than lift others up, our Lord Jesus, through the parable of the Good Samaritan, reminds us that we are called to be good neighbours who care for one another, especially for our neighbours and those in most need.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is probably one of the well-known parables of Jesus, not just in the Christian circles, but even in our secular world. The Good Samaritan is a worldwide icon of goodness and care for others around us.

A while ago, I was listening to the news as I was driving, and the news anchor reported that there was an accident where a car was hit, and the driver of the car that hit fled the scene, and a good Samaritan helped the injured person in the car that was hit and called 911.

Now, coming back to the parable, some rabbis restricted the word 'neighbor' to their fellow Jews. Some others gave a little wider definition, but Jesus turned the question inside out. He did not answer the question, "Who is my neighbor?" but answered a different question: "Who should I be neighbor to?"

Now, these two questions may seem more or the same, but they are quite different. The first question is about other person and how they are to be classified. The second question is about me, as to how I should behave towards others around me.

So, the question for each of us today is, "Who should I be neighbor to? How should I respond to the needs of the people around me?"

Now, often, it is easier to deal with questions that deal with other things or other people out there. But many of the difficult things that challenge us are very much in here, within us. It is our attitudes, it is our convictions, and so on.

Jesus looks at each of us and says, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." He is able to say that because he is not only filled with light and love within himself, but he is the source of light and love.

So, ask yourselves today, "Do I care for others? For my family members? For my neighbours? Or am I only focused on myself and on my needs?"

The other day, a friend of mine forwarded this message that said, "Life laughs at you when you are unhappy. Life smiles at you when you are happy. But life salutes you when you make others happy."

So today, we ask the Lord to fill us with his light and with his love, so that we will be good neighbours to one another.

Amen.