

## St Luke's Stained Glass Window Reflection — Ken Low

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*Council 12455 Knights have offered reflections for eight of the 17 stained-glass windows in St. Luke's church. Brothers and other parishioners are encouraged to write and share the joy of St. Luke's parables depicted in our beautiful church's stained glass windows. You can preview these reflections on the St. Luke's website. Below is Brother Ken Low's thoughts on The Parable of the Good Samaritan.*

### **St. Luke, Chapter 10 verses 29-37**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan begins with a question posed to Jesus, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Indeed, this is the central question for every Christian today as well! The ultimate answer: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

In answer to the follow-up question posed to Jesus "And who is my neighbor?"—Jesus responds with the familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). A man, presumably a Jew, was stripped, beaten and left for dead along the roadside. As they passed by him, two Jewish "holy men" each chose not to aid the man as he lay there beaten and bleeding. Then a Samaritan (a people despised by Jews) came by, "had compassion," bound the wounds, took the injured man to an inn and tended his injuries that night. In the morning he paid the bill, asked the innkeeper to take care of the man and promised to pay him for his efforts on his return!

Reflecting, we will perceive that Jesus has woven numerous lessons into this parable... perhaps the most important being that every person is our neighbor, even those whom we may not particularly like, who are ungrateful and even our enemies. We, as His followers, are called to love them "as yourself." Jesus is telling us that we are to be an extension of God's unconditional love to our neighbors!

As Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D. puts it, "God creates creatures, not because He has need of them, for they can add nothing to his beatitude and essential glory; but He creates them solely to extend His infinite goodness outside Himself... This goodness is the cause of your being and your life..." \*

If we are going to love our neighbor, we need to understand what real love looks like. Unfortunately, our society has seriously warped many peoples' perceptions of what love is. In the Bible, however, 1 Cor 13:4-8 describes it beautifully: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but, rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." This is just in times of crisis, and He gives many, many opportunities each day: Being patient with our children or spouse; greeting the checkout clerk by name with a cheerful smile; thanking people for doing the things that we have just come to expect; letting the other person be right most of the time; choosing not to hold a grudge; not judging someone, not cursing the person who cut you off in traffic, and on and on. Just look at 1 Corinthians. The outline is there for us! Reflect on it at the end of each day. How have you loved your neighbor today? What opportunities did you fail to take? Think about it...the reward is "eternal life"!

\**Divine Intimacy*

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