

From Jerusalem to Jericho

The Good Samaritan Interview

CHARACTERS: (Some can be doubled) Nancy News the news anchor, Rebekah, Muggers 1 & 2, Priest, Levite, Innkeeper, injured man, Samaritan.

PROPS: Microphone, "TV screen" (see end notes for tips on constructing a TV Screen), remote control (News Anchor "clicks" the remote to bring up a scene in the TV screen)

COSTUMES: Biblical

SETTING: News room and road via TV screen. NEWS ANCHOR and REBEKAH appear outside of the TV screen unless they are interviewing witnesses. Everything else takes place within the screen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10: 25-37

RUN TIME: 12-15 minutes depending on audience interaction.

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: Welcome back to News at Nine with Nancy News. This segment is being brought to you by (*insert group/church name*). Let's take a look at traffic. Rebekah, how does it look out there?

REBEKAH: Pretty good traveling except the 18 mile stretch between Jerusalem to Jericho. We're hearing reports of thieves, robbers and muggers.

NEWS ANCHOR: Isn't that the area locals call the bloody way because of all the crime that occurs there?

REBEKAH: That's correct. It is a rocky desert area known to be dangerous.

NEWS ANCHOR: Can you tell us what's going on?

REBEKAH: Yes. A man is down. He looks dead or pretty close to it. The robbers have taken his clothes. He's got bumps, bruises, blood everywhere. A couple of people have passed by on the other side of the road but some guy is getting off his donkey and stopping. I'm going to go in for a closer look and possibly get some interviews with these folks.

NEWS ANCHOR: Great. We'll get back to you in a few moments. Stay tuned for further developments on the situation on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. As you know, Jerusalem is where the temple is located and where God is worshipped by the Jews. Back to Rebekah.

REBEKAH: We've got our long range cam centered on the scene (*puppets come up in TV screen*) The man who stopped is bandaging his wounds. It's going to take a lot of bandages because this man who was mugged is badly injured. He doesn't even appear to be conscious at this point. Not only that but the rescuer is using a combination of wine to cleanse the wounds from germs and oil to soothe the pain. He's putting him on donkey and they are headed towards an inn. (*SAM, DONKEY and MAN exit*)

NEWS ANCHOR: Thank you Rebekah. See if you can get to the inn to interview them. In the meantime we have our on the spot reporter David with the policeman who caught the robbers.

DAVID: I'm here with Peter Policeman. Tell us what happened.

PETER: We got a call earlier today from an anonymous sources that a mugging had occurred on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. It is a treacherous, dangerous stretch of highway. We've had many muggings and even murders occur there when robbers hold up travelers.

DAVID: Can we interview the suspects in this case?

PETER: Sure. *(Exits. MUGGER 1 & 2 appear)*

DAVID: What happened today on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

MUGGER 1: This guy was just asking to be mugged, you know what I mean. He's traveling alone through a dangerous area.

MUGGER 2: And our philosophy of life is what's yours is mine and I'm going to take it. *(they exit)*

MUGGER 1: The strong prey on the weak. And I don't mean P-R-A-Y pray. I mean P-R-E-Y prey.

MUGGER 2: Like the wolf pouncing on the lamb or the lion grabbing a gazelle for lunch. *(they exit)*

DAVID: I don't think God would approve of that philosophy at all. Back to you, Nancy News.

NANCY: No. God would not approve of that philosophy. We've got Rebekah live at the scene. She's found one of the witnesses who passed by the hurt man.

REBEKAH: I'm here with Paxton the priest. Paxton, what do you do for a living?

PAXTON: *(haughty, stuck up, self righteous)* I serve God and help others worship him. It is a very important job.

REBEKAH: Why were you traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

PAXTON: It was my turn to serve for two weeks at the temple. That's a very important job. So I finished my two weeks and was headed home to Jericho.

REBEKAH: You saw the injured man and passed by on the other side of the road. Paxton, why didn't you stop to help the man?

PRIEST: He might have already been dead. You know as a priest I am not supposed to touch dead bodies.

REBEKAH: But you walked on the other side. Why didn't you at least go over closer and see if he was breathing?

PRIEST: I asked myself “What will happen to me if I stop and help?” I might get dirty. I might not be safe for me to stop.

REBEKAH: Did you ask yourself what might happen to the guy if you didn’t stop to help?

PRIEST: No. I didn’t know the guy. Didn’t want to get involved. My philosophy in life is What’s yours is no concern of mine.

REBEKAH: Do you think God approves of that philosophy? I mean, you are a priest. You’re supposed to be helping people, serving God by serving others?

PRIEST: Let’s not go there. All I can say is that it would have been inconvenient to stop and help. I’m a busy and important man. I have better things to do than stop and help somebody I have never met. In fact, I need to go right now. (*PRIEST exits*)

REBEKAH: You heard it folks. The priest said it was not a good time to stop and help and his philosophy is What’s yours is no concern of mine.

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: Thank you Rebekah. See if you can get that other guy who passed by for an interview. I’m going to turn this over to (*insert name*) who is going to interview some people on the street about this development.

(At this point, the human interviews audience members with questions like: “Do you think the priest did the right thing?” “Why or why not?” “What would you have done if you were him and saw the injured man?” “What might make you too busy to help someone else?” If we are too busy to help others, are we too busy?”)

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: We have Rebekah live at the scene with the other witness.

REBEKAH: This is Levi the Levite. Levi, what were you doing on the highway between Jerusalem and Jericho.

LEVI: Just like the priest, I was traveling home after serving at the temple.

REBEKAH: So what happened when you saw the man, beaten and bloody on the side of the road.

LEVI: I can’t say I really saw him. My philosophy in life is like the priest’s. What’s yours is no concern of mine if I don’t see a problem. So I pretty much don’t pay attention to the big picture or other people.

REBEKAH: But doesn’t the law say if you see somebody’s donkey fallen under a load, you should stop and help him?

LEVI: The law does say that in Exodus 23:5. The key word there is SEE. If you don’t SEE others having problems, you don’t have to help them. So.... I just focus on myself, what I need, what I want. I figure everybody should take care of their own life. Speaking of my life, I need to go. (*exits*)

REBEKAH: You heard it folks. Levi the Levite says he didn't need to stop and help because he didn't SEE a problem. His philosophy is What's yours is no concern of mine, if I don't see it.

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: Thank you Rebekah. See if you can get the guy who stopped for an interview. I'm going to turn this over to *(insert name)* who is going to interview some people on the street about this development.

(At this point, the human interviews audience members with questions like: "Do you think the Levite did the right thing?" "Why or why not?" "Do you think God was pleased with how he interpreted the law? What would you have done if you were him and saw the injured man?")

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: We have Rebekah live at the scene with Ike the innkeeper. Rebekah, how does an innkeeper figure into all of this?

REBEKAH: This is the man who owns the inn where the guy who stopped to help brought the injured man. Ike, tell us what happened?

IKE: This guy, *(emphasizing Samaritan with disgust)* a Samaritan guy comes in and wants a room for some guy that's been mugged and is pretty bad off.

REBEKAH: Why did you say Samaritan like it was an icky word?

IKE: Samaritans are like gross. We Jews hate them. They are the bottom of the barrel, the scum of the earth, the....

REBEKAH: *(cutting him off)* OK. We get the picture. You don't like Samaritans.

IKE: That's right. Normally I wouldn't have had anything to do with him but he wanted a room for a Jewish man who had been mugged so I made an exception and did business with him.

REBEKAH: You gave him a room for the injured man?

IKE: I don't GIVE anything. I thought "What will happen to me if I help this man?" My philosophy is What's mine is yours, IF the price is right. He had some silver coins and was willing to pay for my room. So... if I helped, I would make money. Speaking of money... I have a customer! Dressed nicely. I bet he's got silver to pay. Gotta go get that money. *(IKE exits)*

REBEKAH: That was Ike the Innkeeper with the philosophy What's mine is yours if the price is right. I'm going to find the Samaritan and injured man. Back to your Nancy News.

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: Thank you Rebekah. I'm going to turn this over to *(insert name)* who is going to interview some people on the street about this development.

(At this point, the human interviews audience members with questions like: "Do you think the innkeeper did the right thing?" "Why or why not?" "Does the reason you help people matter to God or does he only care about your actions, not your motives?" "Do you think God was pleased with how

people felt about Samaritans?” “Do you think the innkeeper was prejudiced” “What does prejudiced mean?” “Should we get paid when we help people?” “Does God want us to be prejudiced?”)

NANCY: A quick recap of our story so far. (*Options here includes having NANCY or an audience member read this from the Bible*) A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. Rebekah is live in the room with the Samaritan and the guy who got mugged.

REBEKAH: I'm here with Sammy the Samaritan. Sammy, why did you stop to help?

SAMMY: I saw this guy, bloody, half dead on the side of the road and I asked myself: "What will happen to him if I don't stop and help?" He might die. He would hurt more. It was a no brainer to stop.

REBEKAH: Did you know him personally?

SAMMY: No.

REBEKAH: I understand that Jews pretty much hate Samaritans. He might not have stopped if you had been the one mugged. How do you feel about that?

SAMMY: God says to love your neighbor as yourself. He says to love our enemies and to do good to those who hate you. Even if I am a Samaritan, I know God is smarter than I am. If God says it, it must be true.

REBEKAH: Kind of like Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

SAMMY: That's right. What's mine is yours because it all comes from God.

REBEKAH: So what will you do now?

SAMMY: I'll look after him until he wakes up and when I return back this way, I will reimburse Ike the innkeeper for any extra expenses. I mean – the guy doesn't have any money – the robbers took it all.

REBEKAH: What if he doesn't pay you back?

SAMMY: Everything I have comes from God. God will see to it I have what I need. If He knows how many hairs are on my head, he can certainly keep track of how much money I have vs. how much I need.

REBEKAH: Thanks. I'll let you get back to tending the injured guy. Back to you Nancy.

NANCY NEWS ANCHOR: Thank you Rebekah. I'm going to turn this over to (insert name) who is going to interview some people on the street about this whole situation.

(At this point, the human interviews audience members with questions like: "Do you think the Samaritan did the right thing?" "Why or why not?" "Do you think the Samaritan's philosophy "What's mine is yours because it comes from God is stupid, good? Tell us about a time you helped.")

NANCY: Let's have each of the people we interviewed back one more time. We'll ask them what their philosophy of life is. If you agree with them, stand up after they say it and clap. If you disagree stay in your seat and do a thumbs down. *(The puppets appear, state their philosophy and exit after audience's reaction)*

MUGGERS 1 & 2: What's yours is mine and I'm going to take it.

PRIEST: What's yours is no concern of mine.

LEVITE: What's yours is no concern of mine if I don't SEE a problem.

IKE: What's mine is yours IF the price is right.

SAMMY: What's mine is yours because it comes from God.

NANCY: That's the News at Nine. I'm Nancy News. Stay tuned to this station and God's word. Good bye.

PRODUCTION NOTES:

A TV screen can easily be constructed by making a frame from a black poster board with the center cut out leaving a three inch border. Place black sticks, paint paddles, etc on each side to lift it above the puppet stage. For something more permanent, use paper towel rolls or dowels or sticks painted black.

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