

WHAT WE FOUND

We found the Good Samaritan's ancestor in a text almost nobody reads: 2 Chronicles 28:8–15, where men of Samaria clothe Judah's captives, anoint them, carry the feeble on donkeys, and bring them to Jericho, the very city of Jesus' parable. The parable draws deeply on, and may deliberately echo, Israel's own memory. And we caught the parable's inversion: the lawyer asked who is my neighbor, seeking a boundary; Jesus asked which of these three proved neighbor, assigning a vocation. Go and do likewise.

We defended Martha from caricature (the correction was anxiety, not work) and heard the one thing needful at Mary of Bethany's feet. We prayed Luke's Our Father petition by petition, and found his punchline: the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. And at 11:27–28 we heard Jesus crown rather than demote his mother: blessed rather (menoun, a particle best read here as "yes, and even more" rather than as a denial) are those who hear the word of God and keep it, which is precisely what Luke has shown Mary doing since chapter 1: hearing (1:38), believing (1:45), keeping and pondering (2:19, 2:51).

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ambrose of Milan (*Exposition of Luke, Book VII*)

Adam went down from the city of peace and fell among powers that left him half dead; Law and priesthood could diagnose but not heal. Then Mercy came down the road as the despised outsider: the Samaritan is the Lord, and the inn is the Church.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine of Hippo (*Sermon 103, on Martha and Mary*)

Martha's work is good and passes with the world's need; Mary chose what will never be taken, for in the kingdom no one serves the hungry where no one hungers. We do the first well only by wanting the second more.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyprian of Carthage (*On the Lord's Prayer*)

The prayer Christ taught is prayed in Christ's own voice, so the Father recognizes his Son's words on his children's lips. And because it says our Father, no one comes to the Father alone.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Pray Luke's Our Father slowly once a day, one petition per breath, and ask explicitly for the Holy Spirit.
- Do one hidden Samaritan act this week: planned, costly enough to feel, told to no one.
- Sit down first: ten minutes of listening prayer before your busiest day this week.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 11:28 *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* (RSV2CE)

Before next session: read Luke 12:1–13:35, a rich fool, ravens and lilies, a narrow door, and a hen gathering her brood.

Catechism this week: CCC 2761, 1465, 2601, 2708–2712.