



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Matthew 3:11

Jesus grew up and became a man. The time came for Him to leave the house in Nazareth and begin the work that God the Father sent Him to do. He said goodbye to His Mother Mary and started out.

First He went to the Jordan River to see **John the Baptist**. Jesus asked John to baptize Him. When John baptized Jesus the Spirit of God, looking like a dove, came to Him and God the Father spoke:

“This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.”

He said that so all the people would know that Jesus was the Son of God. Then Jesus went into the desert to pray.

After forty days, Jesus left the desert. He began to preach to people in towns and in the country. He

told them that God loved them and wanted them to be with Him in Heaven. He said that God would soon save them from their sins. Jesus told a lot of stories that made it easier to understand what God was like.

Jesus picked twelve men to be His **disciples**. They would be His special helpers and would learn more from Jesus than the other people. The disciples soon learned from Jesus how to preach the **Good News** to others.

Jesus told many stories to teach us about the **Kingdom of God**.



The Mustard Seed

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which someone plants in his field. The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds but it grows into a very large plant. It grows so big that birds can build their nests in its branches.

The Buried Treasure

A man found a buried treasure in a field. He wanted to keep the treasure. But the field belonged to somebody else. So the man took all the money he had in the world. He bought the field so he could have the treasure.

When we learn the secret of how to live forever with God, it is like finding a buried treasure. When the man in the story bought the field, other people might have said, "Why is he spending so much money on an old field?" They did not know about the treasure. In the same way, some people do not understand why we follow God's Laws. They do not know how wonderful Heaven is!

Jesus called everyone to live in the Kingdom of God. He taught us how to please God in our daily lives. He came to win us over to a life of friendship with God.

Words to Know:

John the Baptist disciple
Good News Kingdom of God

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Jesus Our Teacher

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them.”

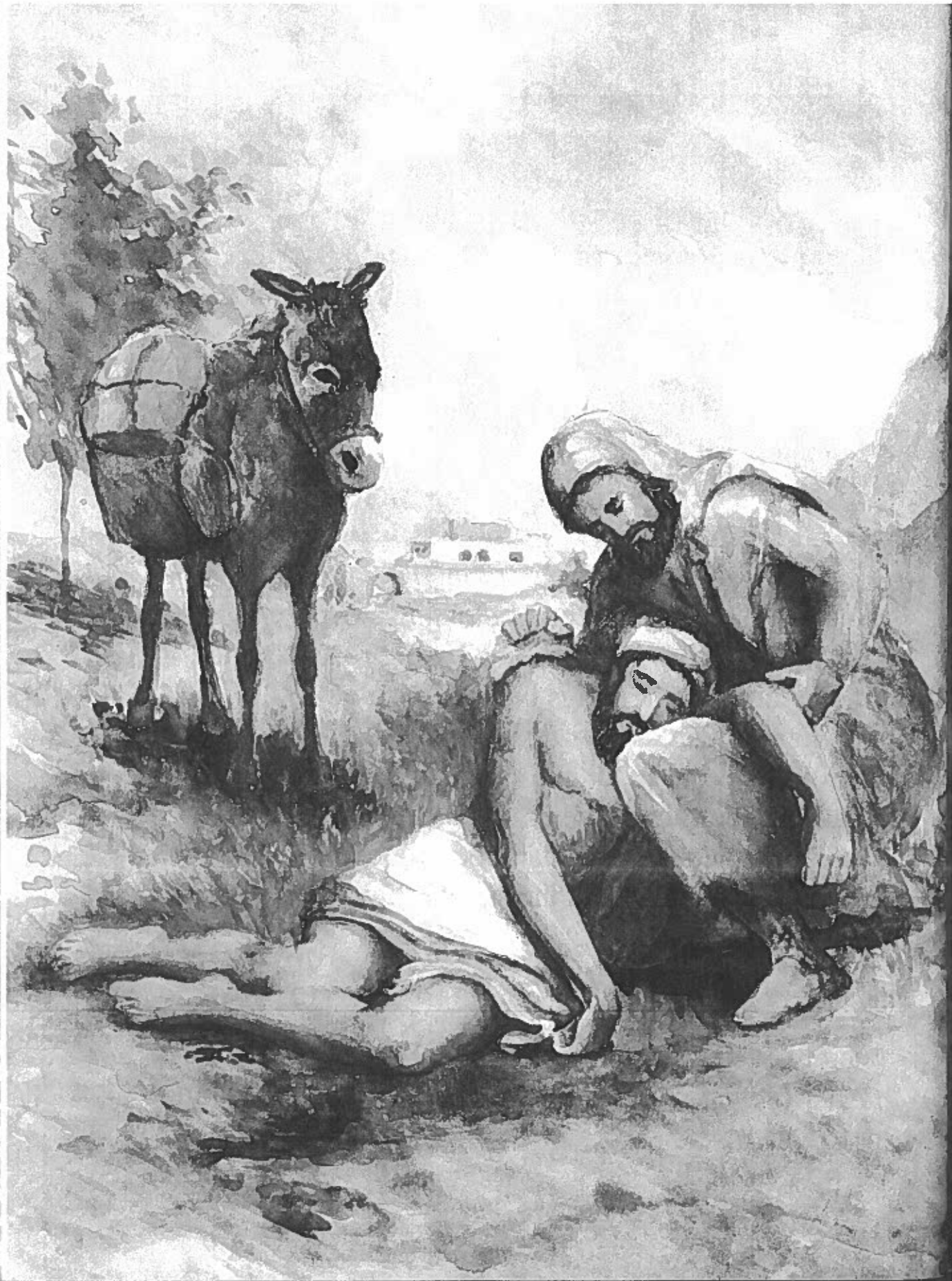
Matthew 5:1–2


One day Jesus told this story:

Once a man was travelling on a very dangerous road. It was a place where robbers would often wait to hurt people and take their belongings. And that is what happened to this man. He lay by the road, too hurt to move, and all his things had been stolen.

Soon a man came riding by. He saw the other man lying there, but he didn't care and rode on by. Another man did the same. Then a third man came. He felt sorry for the man who had been robbed. He took the man to the next town, and he paid for the man to be taken care of.

This, said Jesus, is what it means to love your neighbor. It means to help those in need, and to be kind to everyone. Jesus said that if we do something





kind for a person who needs our help, it is like doing it for Jesus Himself.

Here are some of the things Jesus said we should do, and some ways we can do them. They are called the **Corporal Works of Mercy**.

Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty

Give money to the missions, bring food to your church Thanksgiving drive, help your mother fix dinner, and eat the food you are given without complaining, as a sacrifice for the hungry.

Clothe the Naked

Send old clothing to the missions, lend your extra coat or gloves if your friend doesn't have his, help your little brother or sister to get dressed.

Shelter and Welcome the Homeless

If someone new moves to your neighborhood, make him feel welcome. Be a friend to the boy or girl in your class who seems lonely.

Visit and Comfort the Sick and Imprisoned

Go to see friends and neighbors when they are sick. If your classmate is sick, bring his schoolwork home and help him with it. Visit someone who is old and can't go out much; ask if you can help in any way.

Bury the Dead

We should pray every day for those who have died, even if we did not know them, so they will be happy in Heaven with God.

