

In a Bad Way

by Rod Belt

Theme The parable of the Good Samaritan raises the question: why did two apparently holy men walk on by? This story is probably so familiar that we just see the characters in black and white, but by giving them plausible motives we can begin to ask ourselves, what would we do?

Cast: The PRIEST Upright and sure.
The LEVITE Thoughtful and insecure.
The SAMARITAN A plain speaking man.

Notes: The three characters stand side-by-side in the order above. Throughout the sketch they talk only to the audience, each telling his own story, oblivious to the others except when referring to each other near the beginning. The piece starts off light and brisk, but soon becomes serious and thoughtful.

PRIEST Hello.

LEVITE Hello.

SAMARITAN Hello.

PRIEST I'm a priest.

LEVITE I'm a Levite.

SAMARITAN I'm a Samaritan.

PRIEST I am very holy. It's my job to be holy. Holiness is what I do. I look down on **him** (*looks at LEVITE*) because he's not as holy as me. I don't even look at **him** at all, (*points at SAMARITAN, turns head away*) he's not worth it.

LEVITE I am not as holy as **him** (*looks at PRIEST*), but I hope I will be one day. I'm far more holy than **him** (*looks at SAMARITAN*), he was born on the wrong side of the tracks, if you know what I mean.

SAMARITAN I am not holy. I have never been holy. I wouldn't know holiness if it walked up to me in the street and said "boo".

PRIEST God loves me.

LEVITE I think God loves me.

SAMARITAN (*puzzled*) Which god are we talking about?

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PRIEST I've just been on a journey.

LEVITE Me too, I've been to Jericho for a few weeks.

SAMARITAN I'm just visiting this city. It's a great place but people keep spitting at me.

PRIEST When I was travelling I saw a heap on the road. When I got nearer I saw it was a man. He was covered in blood. I would have liked to help him, but I'm a priest. If I had touched him I would have been ritually unclean for seven days - I wouldn't have been able to carry out my duties! What use would I have been to anyone then?

Sample