

SPIRITUAL TASK—SERVING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (Luke 10)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story When the man was hurt by thieves only the Samaritan stopped to lend some aid. He bandaged the man's wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Meaning Being a good neighbor requires that we stop and consider the needs of others, not just our own. To be effective we pour both oil (love) and wine (truth) into our dealings and relationships with others. Pouring on love (oil) alone is like being co-dependent. Pouring on the wine (truth) alone is like being a critic. Neither one alone is particularly helpful or desirable.

Task This week try embodying the words of Charles Kingsley, "Make a rule, and pray to God to help you to keep it, never, if possible, to lie down at night without being able to say, 'I have made one human being at least a little wiser, or a little happier, or at least a little better this day.'"