

THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF HEALING Part III

The Story of the Good Samaritan is not just a story about a foreigner who did a good deed for a man who was beat up and robbed. It is ultimately a story of Christ and His Church. Various Fathers of the Church show the fuller meaning of the story: The man who is victimized is mankind, who fell away from God by sin (symbolized by his going *down* from the Holy City of Jerusalem to Jericho). He is beaten down by sin and the assaults of the demons and left helpless. The priests and Levites, who passed the man by, signify the insufficiency of the Old Testament to restore mankind. The stranger, the Samaritan, is a symbol of Christ, who, in a sense, is a foreigner, as He is the Word whose origin is not from earth. “He came down from heaven, and became man” for the salvation of mankind.