

## **RANDOM THOUGHTS**

**By**  
**Arlington McRae**

How did you do on your latest Good Samaritan Test? Did you pass? Good Samaritan Test? What is a Good Samaritan Test?

In school, students are given tests on a regular basis to measure their progress. These tests tend to vary in complexity. Some are simple and the student passes with ease. Others are more difficult requiring the student to struggle a little. If the student has been diligent in his/her homework, there is nothing to it. But if he/she has not studied but spent their evenings enjoying TV and their friends, they don't do very well. Likewise, if you are not diligent in your homework by studying and putting into practice what you have learned, you won't do well on your Good Samaritan Test.

So how does a Good Samaritan Test work? Several weeks ago, I was in a large grocery store. A gentleman, in his fifties, whom I have never met, asked me what medicine would alleviate sinus congestion. Why had he singled me out? It just so happens that I am a chronic sufferer. I asked him about his symptoms. Then I gave him my recommendation and started to walk away. But I noticed that he was having difficulty. I concluded that he probably could not read. So I took the medicine from the shelf and put it in his hands. Then I gave him instructions on how to take it. Finally, I asked him if he needed anything else. This test was completed. Later, I thought "what a wonderful person I am having taken time to assist this gentleman in need." I was proud that I had recognized his need and had taken time to help him.

Luke 10:25-37 includes those passages commonly referred to as the story of the Good Samaritan. I believe God regularly tests the quality of our spiritual fruit by placing various circumstances in our paths and observing our reaction. These are to be learning experiences for us. But we are usually so wrapped up in ourselves that we are not even aware of being tested. So I ask you. When was your last test? How well did you do? The wise will learn from these tests. They will step up their homework, prayer life, and devotion time so they are better prepared for the next test. Here is what happened to me.

A couple of weeks later, I was in Walmart. An elderly gentleman held up a box and asked me if it were cookies. It wasn't. Though he was doing a good job trying to hide his blindness, I observed that he was at least legally blind. So I led him to the cookie shelf but I did not help him pick his cookies. I also noticed his ragged, torn clothes. He was clearly a man of very little means. Sometime later at the checkout counter, I observed this same gentleman, across the way, bumping into carts and attempting to exit by way of the cart window, which is not as tall as a door. No one else in the store appeared to notice him. I rushed over to guide him out the right exit. He was very appreciative. In the process, I noticed that he did not have any packages and I wondered why he had no

cookies. It occurred to me that he probably could not afford them or maybe he couldn't see well enough to make a choice. "Perhaps I should buy them for him." But I did not.

Several hours later, I realized I had failed my Good Samaritan Test. My heart has been heavy ever since. You see, the first test made me feel righteous. Therefore, the second test was my downfall. I didn't even realize I was being tested.