

SAM GOOD

By

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Drama

Target: Family

SAM GOOD had money and power but no compassion until one night when he was left for dead and saved by two young drug addicts who showed him the true meaning of; “Love Thy Neighbor”.

Sam Good and his wife EMILY had marital issues long before they lost their daughter in an automobile accident. Emily was driving that day. When Sam learned of his wife’s drinking on the day she drove their daughter to piano lessons; he blamed her for the accident and their daughter’s death. He held on to his contempt for many years, even after Emily’s repeated assurances that she was not drunk and it was not her fault. Now the Goods’ seem to be going through the motions of a hollow relationship that only got worse with time.

Two people so far removed in status from the Good’s were JACK MASON and MOLLY DENSMORE. They were methamphetamine addicts who were in love but so strung out that they lost track of reality and time. The two seemingly hopeless derelicts were destined for either jail or death but with the help of the Holy Spirit became unlikely heroes in this sad saga of despair. Since Jack and Molly were homeless; they are forced to take refuge under some cardboard boxes in an alleyway for the evening.

That same evening Sam has to take a detour while driving home from his corporate office. He turns down an unfamiliar road and finds himself in a gang controlled ghetto neighborhood. Before he could turn his car around two large men pull him out and begin to beat him. Sam manages to put up a good fight but gets stabbed in the leg and falls to the ground. The muggers take his wallet, shoes and car; leaving him to die in the street. Sam tries to find his way out of the situation by walking down the street begging for someone to help. He encounters several people who see his dilemma but refuse to help. Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan becomes evident here as Sam continues to stagger down the street in search of aid.

Sam finally makes his way down the alleyway where Jack and Molly are resting. He gets to the mound of cardboard and collapses falling directly on top of them. Jack and Molly scramble to their feet startled as the large man lies bleeding profusely on their former shelter. Jack wants to leave Sam where he lay but Molly looks at him with compassion. As she looks close into his face something comes over her and she is convinced that helping this poor man was her mission. She did not know who but Sam reminds her of someone. Molly convinces Jack to help her pick Sam up and take him to the free clinic several blocks away.

Sam recovers from his injuries thanks to Jack and Molly. Sam is puzzled as to what possessed two drug addicts to help him. He sets out to find them to somehow pay them back. During his search Sam discovers a world of pain and suffering looking for Jack and Molly in crack houses, public parks and homeless hangouts. He sees scores of people young and old wasting their lives pursuing their various habits.

Sam encounters the local drug dealer, MOSE who with the aid of his gang members supply the drugs for the twenty block area. "His turf", as he called it, was where he was the king and Sam was an invader. Sam offers money for information about Jack and Molly in order to find them. Mose threatens Sam to never come back on his turf or he will need to take action. This frightens Sam who produces a hand gun to keep them at bay as he does not want to get mugged again. This infuriates Mose who because of pride wants to teach him a lesson if he gets the chance.

Later on, Jack and Molly are staying in a crack house at the edge of town. Mose pays them a visit. He beats Jack; hitting him in the side with a baseball bat, then roughs up Molly. He steals Molly's prize cross from around her neck. He tells them to get a message back to Sam to never show his face in that neighborhood again. Jack, who is in a great deal of pain from the beating, downplays the injury in order to not worry Molly. While in the corner store, Sam recognizes Molly and strikes up a conversation while Jack waits outside. Sam tells Molly he wants to return the favor for helping him. Molly and Jack are skeptical and don't want to have anything to do with Sam since Mose is still lurking about. During the conversation outside the corner store, Jack spits up blood and collapses.

In the hospital a doctor tells Molly that Jack is seriously ill. He does not expect him to live as he requires a kidney transplant. He says since he was a drug addict, he would not be a candidate for immediate help. Molly is frantic and wants to give one of her kidneys but the doctor refuses to take hers since she is also an addict. Sam offers his kidney. The doctor is surprised but still not convinced the kidney will work. Sam tells the doctor that his will work because, "I just know", he says. Molly thanks him for his help and gives him a warm hug. Sam asks Molly to give something in return. He asks her to go to rehab and get off the drugs. She happily agrees.

A year later the recovered Jack and Molly visit Sam at his mansion home. Emily joyfully meets them at the door. Emily tells them that she and Sam have reconciled their marriage because of all that took place with the mugging and rescue. She says that Sam was a changed man after that

and has become more loving and attentive toward her. He had forgiven her. Molly and Jack were concerned when they came into his room to see him.

He had suffered a stroke and was completely paralyzed. He couldn't even speak. Emily tells them that Sam had gone out one night. He went out to get Molly's cross back from Mose. During the altercation, Mose pistol whipped him that later resulted in his stroke. Emily hands the cross back to Molly. Jack puts it around Molly's neck. Then Molly leans down to speak to him, the cross fully visible and glistening in his eyes. She tells him that he reminds her of her uncle who had died in Afghanistan. She remembers his loving eyes as she looks into Sam's blank stare. Then miraculously his face changes expression. He slowly looks down at the cross around her neck and smiles.

This film ends on an extreme uplifting note. The epitaph tells the audience how Sam fully recovered. He and Emily considered Jack and Molly along with their children as family. Upon his death after twenty years he bequeathed his entire fortune to the local rescue mission for the care and treatment of the drug afflicted and their families. Sam Good truly understood the phrase, "Love Thy Neighbor".