**Witness to Love and Matthew 25**

**National & North: An Experiment on Empathy**

In 1997 social psychologist and researcher Arthur Aron conducted a study on human connection. It has become known as the 36 questions to fall in love. In 2016, Radio Milwaukee 88Nine took these questions and interviewed eight people who reside along two of Milwaukee’s longest streets, National and North. The referred to it as a series on empathy and also a way to fall in love with your neighbor. This link introduces you to Joey, a 20-year-old from Sherman Park. Joey is a father and youth advocate and so much more.

<https://radiomilwaukee.org/story/88nine-presents/national-north-joey/>

Reflection questions for individuals or groups:

In what ways did you find yourself connecting with Joey?

Was there anything that surprised you about him?

How would you answer the questions yourself?

One step further:

Choose three people to interview yourself: one you think you know well, one you’d like to know more, and (if you can) a stranger; choose up to four questions you’ll ask each- link to NYT article that includes the 36 questions to fall in love:<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/09/style/no-37-big-wedding-or-small.html>

Then reflect:

What did you learn about these individuals?

What surprised you?

How does human connection and intentional curiosity about another paired with listening provide a means of witnessing to love?