

PART 1: NEIGHBOR



Read the following scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’

He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

Question:

Create a list answering this question: What makes someone your “neighbor?”

Watch this Video:

<https://youtu.be/nWk1asr9GVY>

Follow-Up:

Have a conversation about our increasing isolation and alienation from each other. What are some reasons for this separation from our neighbors? Go deeper. What are the deeper motivations for these reasons of isolation and alienation?

Identify the different categories in which we place people in relation to ourselves [friend, enemy, alien, opposition] and how do you sort someone into each group? For example, what makes someone a friend, alien, etc.?

Someone once said that for an Israelite in the first century, a Samaritan would have been “someone they would rather see dead than be helped by.” How might that description play out in our time? How does an act of mercy define a neighbor? Speak of a time when someone extended mercy to you?

What fences have you put up that might block the fullness of being a neighbor? What would it require of you to take down those fences?

Closing prayer:

Help us O Lord, to tear down the fences between us and to tear down the walls we have built in our own hearts. Help us to have the courage to put on the glasses of love and see the people around us as neighbors. And compel us, O Lord, to be reflections of your love and grace to them. Amen.