



Who Is My Neighbor

Presenter: Luke Hammond



For The Verde Valley

Week 3:

“Who Is My Neighbor”

The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷And 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.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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SMALL TALK

1. Who do you typically think of when you think of your neighbors? Spend a moment describing your relationship with those people. Are you close? Do you know people’s names? Do you know anything about them? Are any of those relationships important to you?
2. Why do you think it is so easy for so many of us to stay distant, unconcerned, or even unaware of our neighbors?

VIEWPOINT

3. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan again from **Luke 10**. Jesus tells this story to answer the question “who is my neighbor?” How would you summarize Jesus’ answer to that question?
4. Are there people or groups of people in your life that Jesus might specifically identify that you need to begin considering as your neighbor?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Have you convinced yourself that someone in particular didn’t meet the qualifications of a neighbor for you and therefore excused yourself from treating them with kindness, compassion, or mercy? What are the reasons you most often use that to keep you from responding to people around you in the model of the good Samaritan?
6. When was the last time you felt like you were beat up, broken down, alone, or simply out of place and people were passing you by? What would have been helpful for you in that situation?
7. Sometimes the easiest thing to do when it comes to those around us who are marginalized, vulnerable, or hurting is stay blissfully ignorant of the things they are going through. It’s as if we choose to walk on the other side of the street to distance ourselves from their pain. (Luke 10:31-32) Have you ever noticed yourself “crossing the street” to avoid someone else’s pain?
8. What do you think it would take for you to make yourself more aware of the struggles of vulnerable people around you? In other words, how can you keep yourself from “crossing the street”?

MAKING PROGRESS

9. Is there something that you can do this week to use your position of security and stability to help address the pain or hurt of someone around you who is more vulnerable than you are?