



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

As a Methodist minister, I ended up moving a good deal. Looking back, I realize I seldom really got to know *the folks next door* unless they were church members. Oh, I knew who they were – names, and a few details. But beyond one or two houses away – they could have lived a world away!

Who are our neighbors, anyway? We tend to make limited definitions. We have neighborhoods where the homes are similar, and the residents tend to be pretty much alike economically and socially as well. We admit we are more comfortable with those who resemble us at least a bit, who think and behave like we do.

This becomes most evident in a society like Israel in the first century, when the Jews were greatly concerned with preserving their unique identity amid a cosmopolitan empire (*not unlike modern American society*). The rules of whom one associated with were deep and extensive, and people watched one another to make sure those rules were followed.

It seems every society develops some sort of ranking system!

The parable of the Good Samaritan begins with a lawyer – probably a scribe, one who has studied the Torah at length. Of course he is interested in rules (*that's what lawyers do!*) so asks “*What must I do?*” He clearly knows the proper Jewish answer. His problem...how to do what he knows. Paul confronts this problem in Romans 7:14-25. Jesus’ answer is unexpected, and probably unwelcome.

Might our modern answer to this problem be something like get to really know all the people living around you? And care for them? We might even find a few Samaritans living on our block. And then we will really need Christ’s Spirit to help us do what we know we should do.

— Dr. John Clifford, Retired Clergy-in-Residence

**Consider
the Source
Luke 10:25-37**

A Family Affair

Read Luke 10:25-37 together. The story of the Good Samaritan invites us to consider the question, “*Who is your neighbor?*” Is it the person who lives next door? Is it your friend down the street?

In the story, the man who had been beaten up by robbers and left to die was definitely in need. The parable describes three persons who saw this man in need. The first was a priest and the second was a Levite, or assistant to the priest in the Temple. Would you expect a religious leader or helper to stop and help someone in need? Neither of them did. The third person who passed by was a Samaritan. Samaritans were despised by Jews because they did not strictly observe the law. The Samaritan stopped to help, even though he knew the injured man would likely hate him. He bandaged his wounds, took him to safety and paid for his food and lodging while he recovered.

June is Mission Month at our church and children will get the opportunity to help others by completing a mission project each week in Sunday School. The love and mercy shown by the Samaritan reminds us of God’s love for every person. Does that mean we help only certain people or all people? Together, discuss small to large mission options as a family.

Dear God, thank you for reminding us of your great love through the story of the Good Samaritan. Help us to show love to everyone. Amen.

—Children’s Ministry

Monday: Luke 10:25

A lawyer comes to test Jesus. We cheer Jesus’ answers. But how often have we tested Jesus by our actions?

- *Do you listen closely enough to hear Jesus pointing a new direction for our lives?*

Tuesday: Luke 10:26-28

The lawyer’s answer is the right one. He has the knowledge. The problem is learning how to live the right answer.

- *What are some of the things you know “how to do,” but can’t seem to manage? (Diets come immediately to mind!)*

Wednesday: Luke 10:29

Why can we never leave well enough alone? The lawyer can’t – he seeks to justify himself. From what? From failing to live up to his answer? From really not understanding?

- *From what have we tried to excuse ourselves recently?*
- *How did we extend and fine tune the situations we dealt with?*

Thursday: Luke 10:30-37

Jesus’ parable is not about belief, but about behavior. Our actions are the mirror of our character. We can understand the actions of the priest and Levite without really appreciating it or condoning it.

- *What does your behavior toward others say about you?*
- *Are you proud of it?*

Friday: Luke 10:36-37

Jesus’ “neighborhood” embraced everyone. Even the hated Samaritans! For him, no one could be ignored or turned away from the Kingdom of God.

- *How wide is your “neighborhood”?*
- *And how well do you know your close physical neighborhood?*

June is Mission Month...on Deck June 3

Military & First Responders Network
Footprints Children’s Grief Ministry
Greater Round Rock Village
Disaster Response Team
Heart to Heart Quilters
Kairos Prison Ministry
Children’s Ministry
and the Parking Posse.