

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

I. Loving the “near one,” even when the “near one” isn’t so lovely.

- A. Scripture hangs on two commandments (Luke 10:25-28; Matthew 22:40).
- B. “Neighbor” in Luke 10:29 is the Greek word “plosion,” which literally means “near, near to, or close by.” Jesus “teaches that anyone within close proximity to us should be the object of our concern, regardless of whether or not there are mutual ties of kindred or nation” (NIV Greek Lexicon).
- C. The Samaritan who helped should have been the enemy of the Jew in need according to the culture of the day.
- D. Jesus wants us to look for the broken and needy to be part of our lives. Then we will “see” them. How we see and treat them is how we are seeing and treating Jesus (Matthew 25:31-40).

II. Where do we find the compassion to love the near ones—those that are like us and the ones who are very much unlike us?

- A. Clearly, compassion is what moved the Samaritan (Luke 10:33).
- B. We enter into the compassion and joy of Jesus when we choose to find the lost and heal the broken (Luke 10:1-4, 17-21).
- C. We also find compassion for others from our own painful experiences. Don’t waste your sorrows (II Corinthians 1:3-5).
- D. We find compassion and tenderness towards the near ones in our lives as the Holy Spirit releases the love of the Father to us (Romans 8:14-16). This shapes our view of the people around us.
- E. Jesus modeled this experience for us when He experienced the love of the Father in the baptismal waters of the Jordan. “This is my Son whom I love” (Matthew 3:17).

III. Who are your “priority neighbors”?

- A. First, pay attention to those who come nearest to you in your everyday life—your household, neighborhood, job, travels, etc. There are divine appointments waiting to happen. Pay attention (I Peter 3:15-16).
- B. Do everything without complaining or arguing (Philippians 2:14-16).
- C. Show hospitality to strangers and the mistreated (Hebrews 13:1-2).
- D. Love those who mistreat you. Notice the reward (Luke 6:27-36).

*Mike Hudgins
July 11, 2021*