



Who is My Neighbor? "How Do You Read It?"

Luke 10:25-37

Pastor Derrick Shields, October 6, 2019

We begin a new series today – *Who is my Neighbor?* We kick this off with the very familiar parable known as “The Good Samaritan.” You may feel you know this story well, but don’t check out.

A “teacher of the law” has approached Jesus to explore what is necessary “to have eternal life.”

Jesus replies with the question – “What’s written in the law? *How do you read it?*” The teacher replies correctly – to love God with all you [being] and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus replies, “you have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” But the teacher presses it further. “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus answers his question with the familiar parable...

We will focus on two key questions from this parable of “neighboring:”

- I. What does it mean to love a neighbor? (HOW do we love a neighbor?)
- II. WHY should we love our neighbor?

I. HOW do we love?

A. Who do we love?

Tim Keller (author) explores this idea of “who?”

“people we barely know, people on the other side of the political aisle, those who suffer from their own poor choices, abusive employers, illegal immigrants, etc.”

Answer: *Anyone we see in need*

B. When do we love?

Jonathan Edwards explored, in his book “The Duty of Charity,” the various excuses people give for NOT helping another in need:

1. We need only help those in DIRE need. [incidentally – this is rather subjective!]
2. They brought this trouble on themselves, by their own poor choices.
3. I just can’t afford to help [too costly; too risky]

* Proverbs 3:27 – “withhold no good; when it is in the power of thy hand to do it.”

Answer: *Whenever we see a need.*

C. How much do we love?

* The good Samaritan’s sacrificial help gives us a model that confounds excuse #3:

He risked being attacked himself. He took 1-2 days out of his travel plans to care for the man. He walked while the wounded man rode on his donkey. He used his own resources and money to care for the man. He gave deeply of himself!

Answer: [Until we feel their burden.](#)

II. WHY should we love our neighbor?

* We can best answer this if we see ourselves, NOT as the good Samaritan in this story, but rather as the man on the side of the road, robbed, beaten down, broken, half dead.

Isn't this **our** story? - - Robbed of true life by darkness; beaten down by the world; broken by our weaknesses and mistakes, separated from our Maker, dying!

And then one comes - our Savior Jesus. He sees us, comes near, takes on our burden, shares His rich resources of love, grace, and forgiveness, attends to our brokenness, lifts us up and rescues us from sin and death, and by His Spirit, *continues* to watch over us, provide for us, and heal us.

[WHY should we so love?... Because we have been and ARE so loved.](#)

We love and help others out of the overflow of HIS love and grace towards us.

Who is YOUR neighbor in need, right now?

How can you love them?