

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

This morning we are considering a very familiar parable. It is a parable in which a teacher of the law publicly puts Jesus to the test. The text has two parts - the lawyer's test and Jesus' parable. In responding to this difficult command to 'love your neighbor as yourself,' we are called to imitate Christ himself - the best neighbor!

Being a good neighbor calls for...

1. Countercultural Loyalties
 - a. A shocking character - a Samaritan!
 - b. Jewish and Samaritan relations in the first century
2. Personal Sacrifices
 - a. Why did the Priest and Levite "pass on the other side?"
 - b. Risks, inconveniences, and costs
 - c. A unilateral relationship
3. Ongoing Commitment
 - a. The Samaritan's commitment: "when I come back"
 - b. A concern for the neighbor's complete recovery

Application:

1. As a family, individually, or in your community group, think about how Jesus demonstrates these same loyalties, sacrifices, and commitment to us.
2. To whom are you called to be a good neighbor?
3. Have you responded to Jesus' offer to be a good neighbor to you?