

Questions to Consider

1. Read Matthew 5:43-48. What are the two opposing standards for how we treat enemies? What motivation did Jesus give His followers for loving even our enemies?
2. What would have been a common understanding of one's neighbor in Jesus' day? Are there similar ways by which we narrow our definition of neighbor?
3. What do we know about the relationship of Samaritans and Jews? How did Jews justify their hostility?
4. Do you agree that the kind of love-of-neighbor that Jesus taught can be costly and messy?
5. Have you actively sought to love a neighbor even when you knew it was likely to be service that was thankless and unseen? Did the Lord teach you anything from that experience?
6. For Jewish followers of Jesus, a love of neighbor that extended to the Samaritans would be unnerving. Are there people that you might find it unsettling to actively serve?
7. Why is it necessary that local bodies of believers be actively seeking ways to love neighbors in the manner that Jesus described? Is there a practical way that you think the body of GBC could improve at such love?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

Love Your Neighbor

Luke 10:25-37

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January 14, 2024

In Luke 10:25-27 Jesus used a parable to teach what loving one's neighbor should look like for His followers. Such love can be messy and costly. It can be thankless, lonely, and unseen. And, it can be unnerving.

Matthew 5:43-49: Contrasting Standards

...in first-century Judaism, as in the OT, "neighbor" designated Israelites (including strangers who shared the land with them), but not Gentiles. (James Edwards)

Jewish – Samaritan Relations



2. Lonely, thankless and unseen

With the parable of the Samaritan, Jesus taught that love of neighbor can be:

1. Costly and messy

3. Unnerving