

Are My YOU Neighbor?

WEEK TWO



"Are You My Enemy"

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44 to love our enemies... they are our neighbors too. Rehab was a prostitute in Jericho which was the enemy of Israel but she shows the Israelite spies a level of hospitality that is incredible. While we don't have many enemies today, we do have lots of people we are ambivalent too. They are our neighbors, too. To do this, however, we must become their neighbor like the Good Samaritan.

Read 10: 25-28

An expert of the law tests Jesus on the key to eternal life. In Socratic form, Jesus places the question back to the expert who answers that one must love God and love their neighbor. In doing these things, says Jesus, one will certainly live.

- The Greek word for "Love" your God is future indicative, which means it's an action you will do in the future. Hence, the question continuously becomes, how will you love God this week?
- In this passage, which comes first in the expert's correct analysis? Is it loving God or loving neighbor?
- What is the significance, if any, in this arrangement?

Read 10: 29-32

Because Jesus provided no description of the man, I believe He wanted us to focus on the fact that he was human, and this was enough for the subject of 'neighbor.' Moreover, the Priest and Levite (temple assistant) were heading "down" from Jerusalem to Jericho, meaning they were returning from their religious duties. As they journeyed 17 miles back home on the tiny, rocky road, they met a man who was half dead, and walked over him to the other side.

- Notice Jesus says "by chance" a priest was traveling the road. Why is this important
- Why do you believe the two Jews passed up the man?
- Which of the two commandments did the Jews keep?
- Is there a divorce between what we claim to believe and how we act?

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Read Luke 10:33-37

In a turn of events, the enemy of the Jews becomes the one to emulate. A Samaritan, the ceremonially unclean, socially outcasted enemy of the Jews, was the one to administer aid to the man. He not only bandaged his wounds, but made sure he had enough to get on his feet.

- *What did it cost the Samaritan to take care of the man?*
- *Is there a cost for you to be neighborly?*
- *In this passage, the expert begins with asking who is my neighbor, and Jesus in the end asks who became a neighbor. How do you become a neighbor to someone?*

Conclusion

Lastly, I think it's important to note that throughout the parable, the injured man was never attributed any characteristics such as age, class, race, religion, etc. All we know is that he was a man left for dead, and that was enough for the Samaritan to become a neighbor to him. One of the most challenging people to be a neighbor to are our enemies, and yet if we are called to "go and do like-wise" we must become neighbors to them, too.

- *Who do you need to become neighborly too?*
- *Who do you conceive of as your enemies? How do you respond to them given Jesus's words?*
- *What does hospitality look like towards people you don't really like?*