

Go. Live.

A Series on the DNA of our Church Family

3 – Neighbor is a Verb

Luke 10.25-37

Question: who is my neighbor?

Answer: anyone whom I choose to make a neighbor – because NEIGHBOR IS A VERB

How do we do this? (what opportunity is before us?)

Requirement: stop and see others (v.30-33)

- Don't be so busy that you miss the opportunity
- Don't be so religious that you miss the person
 - The danger is to see a problem to be solved instead of a person to be loved

Requirement: compassion (v.33)

- Something from deep down inside of us gets stirred (Gr. *splanxna*)
- Contention: I just don't love that person (NEIGHBOR IS A VERB)
 - "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him." ~ C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*
- Contention: I tried it and got burned
 - To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to be sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. ~ C.S. Lewis *The Four Loves*

Requirement: sacrifice (v.34-35)

- Personal involvement – bandage wounds / oil and wine
- Personal investment – put him on his animal / brought him to the inn
- Personal resources – two denarii
- Personal resolve – “when I come back...” (he never intended to “just let it be”)

How do we Go.Live.?

1. How many neighbors can you name?
2. What in your normal rhythm needs attention? Who in your normal rhythm needs compassion?
3. Where does *your* world need *your* sacrificial love?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the hardest person to love in your life right now? Why?
2. Which one are you more prone to: being so busy you miss an opportunity or being so religious you miss the person? What is the typical expression of that?
3. What kind of situation (or person) lights the fire of compassion inside of you? When was the last time you encountered that? What did you do as a result?
4. Out of the four points of sacrifice listed above, which is easiest for you to do? Which is most difficult? Why (to both)?
5. Answer the three questions under the "How do we Go.Live.?" section above.