

Small Group Questions

Emotionally Mature in Christ

Who can hear a story on the news about someone getting mugged, robbed, stripped naked and left for dead in an alleyway without being affected? These real life stories also happened in the days of Jesus. Today's passage is also a very disturbing story. Read Luke 10:25-37.*

1. According to Martin Buber, the great Jewish theologian, we treat people as an "It" when we use them as a means to an end or as objects. We treat people as a "Thou," when we recognize each person as a separate human being made in God's image and treat them with dignity and respect. If you were the priest or Levite, what are some of the reasons you may have passed by this man and treated him as an "It" and not a "Thou"?
2. Looking at vv. 31-33, what did the Samaritan see and feel that the priest and Levite did not?
3. Can you think of a time when you were seen in a negative light, or treated as inferior, and passed over as invisible? How did it feel?
4. Who have you been taught not to see or treat as an "It"?
5. Reread verses 33-36. The Samaritan's compassion leads him to stop and to help the hurting man. At the same time, how does he demonstrate self-respect and awareness of his limits?
6. What are some of your challenges when it comes to loving your neighbor as yourself?
7. In light of how God is coming to you through this study, how do you hear the words in v. 37 "go and do likewise"?

*All questions from Peter and Geri Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Workbook*.

