

THE STORYTELLER

Week 11: Are You a Good Neighbor?

Sermon Series:

We are in the final segment of the Parables: Storyteller series. This winter we have been unpacking Jesus' parables and investigating Jesus' stories from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We have been stretched, surprised, confused, and encouraged... but most of all we have been invited. Invited to sit with Jesus and listen to his stories. Now as we draw closer to Holy Week, how do we hear these parables in light of Jesus' movement toward Jerusalem?

The parameters were outlined in the first sermon, Jeff defined a parable as a story that explains our reality giving a new or greater understanding of the world around us. Specifically, parables often reveal something about God and our relationship with God. Key to parables are the layers and depth in the stories, they parallel our own complicated circumstances.

Each Sunday will be a new study guide to help dive deeper into the parables, but remember Jeff's 4 steps to consider: 1. What is the context the parable is told in? 2. What are the indispensable plot elements? 3. What was the meaning at that moment, in that setting? 4. How does that meaning adapt to our cultural setting today?

The purpose of this sermon series is to draw us in, pique our curiosity, and sit with Jesus. You are invited to pull up a chair ask questions, be confused, wonder, and listen to the parable of Jesus.

Message Focus:

Are You a Good Neighbor?

The Passages: Luke 10:25-37

Reflection Questions:

1.) How does the Samaritan represent the Lawyer's answer in v.27? How does v. 28 parallel v. 37? How does this impact our life and our church community? According to this parable, are we a loving church, why or why not? What must we do to continue, to change, to improve, to build upon our church in loving (showing mercy) our neighbor?

2.) Reread v.25, what question is the lawyer asking? If a lawyer came to you today and asked that very same question, how would answer the lawyer? How does Jesus answer the lawyer? What does "love" look like according to the example stated by Jesus? How does Jesus' response deepen, challenge, or confuse our understanding of "inheriting eternal life."?

3.) Notice in v.29 the lawyer attitude, how do we often reflect the lawyer in the story? Do you find the lawyer's response common or as an illustration of the human response, why or why not? What is it about the human heart that wants to justify or excuse their actions? When was the last time you asked God or you asked in general for further explanation, not because you didn't understand what was said, but because you were looking for an excuse to elevate yourself or remove yourself from responsibility? How do we recognize this in our own hearts and guard against it?