

## Mission on the Road

Luke 10:25-37

We all know that it's easy to be neighbourly towards those that are like us. Whether it's because they're from a similar culture, have similar hobbies, or think the same way that we do; we find that we can invest easier in certain relationships than in others.

- How about you?
- Which relationships do you find easy to invest in?
- Which people do you enjoy most to spend time with?
- Who are those that are "most like you"?

### Read Luke 10:25-37

This is the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells this story to help the "expert" in the law understand who it is that he must love if he truly wants to inherit the Kingdom of God. The expert answered correctly when he stated the law called from him to love God (quoting Deut 6:5) and to love people (quoting from Lev 19:18). However, he tries to justify himself when asking just who it is that his love must be limited to (v29). Thus the parable reveals both what a neighbour ought to look like, and also just who might be a true neighbour.

- How might you answer the question that the expert asks?
- What must one do to inherit eternal life?
- Why do you think that the Jesus says to him that he has answered correctly?
- Why do you think that the expert wished to clarify just who his neighbour was?
- What do you think might have been the problem with the expert's mindset?

### Who Is My Neighbour?

Neither Priest nor Levite stopped as they walked past the Jewish man lying there on the road. It was as if there was a great big fence between them and the man. He wasn't part of their tribe, therefore they didn't feel that they needed to be a neighbour to him. We all have fences in our lives. These fences aren't physical, and in many cases, we don't even realise that they're there. They function to maintain an "US" & "THEM" attitude. If you didn't get a chance to hear the poet Joel McKerrrow's poem, take a listen here...

<https://joelmckerrrowandthemysteriousfew.bandcamp.com/track/fences>.

- What fences do you see within your world?
- Who is it that you find it difficult to love?
- Who stands on the other side of your fences?

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### **An Unexpected Neighbour**

First of all, the expert needs to recognize that maybe he's not the neighbour. Maybe God's chosen to use somebody completely unexpected as the real neighbour! Maybe the neighbour isn't defined by who needs to be loved, but by who is doing the loving...

- Why do you think the Samaritan was such an unexpected neighbour?
- Who might be an unexpected neighbour in our day?
- Have you ever experienced an unexpected neighbour in your life?

### **Who Should I Be A Neighbour To?**

Just like the expert, we too need to realise that the neighbour isn't the person who needs loving, but rather it's the person who does the loving. The question the expert ought to have asked was not "who is my neighbour?" BUT "who can I be a neighbour to?".

Take a think about these three spaces that you occupy each week...

- 1<sup>st</sup> Space – The place you live.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Space – The place you work or study (spend most of your day time).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Space – The other places you occupy on a regular basis (café, gym, park, etc).

What might it look like to pursue neighbourly love in each of those places?

- Is there a person or place that you think God might be calling you to?
- What might it look like to invest in those places?
- What might it look like to demonstrate love to somebody who is not like you?

### **Final Questions**

- What is one thing you would like to commit to in the next week/fortnight?
- Who can keep you accountable to this?