

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

"What The World Needs Now" series- Part 03

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by answering the following questions: Who was your childhood hero? Why?

Mister Rogers would open each of his shows with him entering a door, exchanging his jacket for a cardigan sweater, changing his leather shoes for blue tennis shoes, and all the while singing a song he had written: "*Won't You Be My Neighbor*". Toward the end of the song, the lyrics went: "*So, let's make the most of this beautiful day/Since we're together we might as well say/Would you be mine?/Could you be mine?/Won't you be my neighbor?*"

Why do you suppose the concept of "neighbor" or "neighborhood" was important to Mr. Rogers?

How would he define a good neighbor with his television programming?

The Rev. George Wirth, a friend and fellow Presbyterian minister who called Rogers "a man of deep faith" made the following statements: "*This word 'neighbor' wasn't something Fred came up with out of nowhere. It was biblical. It came from Jesus' words 'love your neighbor as yourself' and the parable Jesus told in response to the question 'Who is my neighbor?,' in which the so-called good Samaritan cares for a man who had been beaten and left by the roadside. 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood,' the books Rogers wrote, and the speeches he gave all came from that core — 'the spiritual center of Fred Rogers,'*" .

In a recent lesson taught at Grace Hills Church on "Loving People- Jesus Style", we were encouraged to do the following:

- Look for the next person to love
- Get over our prejudices
- Move toward "messy" ministry
- Leave an impression of God's love in their life.

Perhaps no other story displays the above principles more than the story of the Good Samaritan:

Book: Luke 10:25-37

Luke 10:25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking Him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luke 10:26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

Luke 10:27 The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Luke 10:28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

Luke 10:29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:30 Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

Luke 10:31 "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.

Luke 10:32 A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:33 "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

Luke 10:34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.

Luke 10:35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

Luke 10:36 "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

Luke 10:37 The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Why did Jesus affirm that if the lawyer (an Old Testament scholar) would keep the commandments, he would live?

In verse 29, the Bible states that the lawyer wanted to justify his actions. What actions?

The story is about three men and their response to another injured man. Why did two of them ignore the injured man? How did they do with the 4 suggested ways to "love Jesus style"?

Of the four actions stated above, which one do you have the most trouble with? WHY?

How did the Samaritan man do with the 4 different actions to love Jesus style?

Why did the Samaritan help a man, who in all probability, would not have done the same if the roles had been reversed?

How noteworthy is the assistance that he offered?

What challenge was the lawyer left with after hearing this parable?

What impacts you the most concerning this parable? What about it brings conviction in your life? What part of this story brings assurance?

Lets go on mission:

Where can you look this week to find a person to love/serve/assist?

How do you need to personally prepare yourself to complete the task?

