

Luke 10:25-37 "Serve our World"

Read Luke 10:25-37

At the heart of serving our world is love, a love of neighbour. The parable of the Good Samaritan gives us the opportunity to reflect deeply on the nature of the love the Lord invites us to express. To understand the parable rightly we need to hear it as part of the larger conversation. Our opening questions consider the lens the conversation brings to the parable...

1. What is the lawyer asking by his question and how do you think it is designed to test or trap Jesus?

Jesus question in return points the lawyer to return to the heart of God's law – a love of God and others. In light of his answer the lawyer now feels that he needs to justify himself, meaning he is feeling condemned by his own answer.

2. Why do you think he feels condemned by how he answered?

To the question "Who is my neighbour?" a question designed to limit the scope of love to make it attainable Jesus tells the parable.

3. After hearing the parable how would you answer the scribe's question – who is my neighbour?
4. Jesus changes the question of definition into an invitation to a way of life – "who proved to be the neighbour?" From the parable what does it mean to be a neighbour?

If the scribe was feeling condemned by his own answer how do you think he is feeling now? Jesus has wounded him as he is convicted and crushed by the magnitude of love the Lord requires.

5. Put yourself in the place of the scribe - can we in any way live up to the magnitude of love the Lord requires? Why or why not?

Jesus invites us to inhabit the story. The only character who has literally been stripped of all identifying features is the man lying by the road.

6. How can inhabiting this place in the story (being loved by the one who should have rejected us) shape our hearts to love? How can receiving the love of God in Jesus (the true good Samaritan) shape this love in us?