

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

Luke 10:25-37

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood
- “Who are my neighbors?” and “How can I be neighborly?”

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

A. The Setting—Luke 10:25-29

1. The Most Important Question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - a. Common question in Jesus’ day—Luke 18; John 3
 - b. Meaning of “eternal life”—entrance in Messianic kingdom
 - c. Motive—“to test Jesus”
2. Jesus’ Responds by Turning to the Scriptures—v. 26
3. The Legal-Experts Answer: “Love God supremely and love your neighbor as yourself”—a combination of Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18
 - a. A “neighbor” is someone we are to love in the same manner we love ourselves.
 - b. “Love for God and neighbor” agrees with what Jesus taught. Matthew 22:35-40
 - c. “Love for God and neighbor” is the essence of faith—1 John 4:20-21; 3:14-15
 - d. “Do this and live”—present imperative
4. The Legal-Expert under Conviction
 - a. Should have cried out for mercy
 - b. Instead he tries to “justify himself” by narrowly defining “neighbor”—v. 29
 - d. Various interpretations of “neighbor”

B. The Story—The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:30-35

1. The Treacherous Journey from Jerusalem to Jericho
2. The Inaction of the Priest—v. 31
 - a. Teaching about ceremonial uncleanness—Leviticus 21; Ezekiel 44
 - b. Ceremonial uncleanness excuse debunked—Micah 6:8; Exodus 23:4
3. The Inaction of the Levite—v. 32
4. The Compassion of the Samaritan—vv. 33-35
 - a. Who are the “Samaritans”?
 - b. The Compassionate actions of the Samaritan—vv. 34-35

C. The Summary—Luke 10:36-37

1. Jesus’ answer to the Legal-expert’s question as to “Who is my neighbor?”—A “neighbor” is anyone who crosses our path who has a need which we have the resources to meet. That’s our neighbor!
2. Jesus answers the question, “What does it mean to be a neighbor?”—A “neighbor” is someone who sees a need, and out of love meets that need. It is both the essence of love and expression of faith.