

## Family Stories

### Who is Our Neighbour? Luke 10:25-37

## The Context

1. Sending out of the seventy disciples in pairs (Luke 10:1)
2. Seventy return in joy (10:17)
3. Jesus' prayer of thanks (10:21-23)
  - Kingdom of God – hidden from the wise; revealed to infants
  - Blessed are you...

## Jesus & the Lawyer's First Exchange

Luke 10:25-28

## The Lawyer's Question

- A 'learned' comes to question Jesus – to 'test' him (v25)
- How do I experience eternal life?

## Jesus' Question

- Jesus responds with his own question "What do the scriptures say?" (v26)

## Love God & Your Neighbour

- To this correct response Jesus says: "Do this, and you will live." (v28)
- The good news is that there is eternal life
- The way forward is to engage in a life of love

## Who is this neighbour? Whom am I to love?

Luke 10:29-35

## Jesus Response: A Parable

- A story with six characters:
  - A priest
  - A Levite
  - A Samaritan
  - A wounded man
  - Robbers
  - An Innkeeper

## A Wounded Man by the Road

- The priest & the Levite each walk by and ignore the wounded man
- Each probably has their own good reasons for doing so: things to attend to, they are busy people, the wounded man is unclean, they have no time for mercy

## An Expression of Compassion

- The Samaritan (the outsider) is the one who stops and shows compassion/pity (v33) – providing good, thorough care for the individual
- Shocking to the listeners: The priest or Levite should have done this!

## Jesus & the Lawyer's Final Exchange

Luke 10:36-37

Jesus: *Who was the neighbour?*

Lawyer: *The one who showed mercy*

Jesus: *Go and do likewise*

- This is no abstract discussion
  - Live a life of mercy

*Who is our Neighbour?*

- A call for compassion and mercy to everyone
- There are no restrictions on those we are called to love

*About the Ending*

- The abrupt ending, 'Go and do likewise' (v37) is meant to give us pause
- What about our Monday?

*Going Forward*

*Considering the Priest & Levite*

- The parable calls us to consider ourselves in these characters
  - Who lies at our door?
  - Who is my neighbour?

*A Call For Flexibility*

Anybody who loves must always be prepared to have his plans interrupted. We must be ready to be surprised by tasks which God sets for us today. God is always compelling us to improvise.

Helmut Thielicke

## *Jesus is Our Good Samaritan*

- "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

## *Growing in Jesus*

- We grow in Jesus as we pass on his love to others
- We go deeper in love through sacrifice and service

## *Becoming a Good Neighbour*

We become a good neighbour to our suffering Christ.

- Jesus is treated even as the wounded man was treated
- In our love and service we flow into the life of Christ