

Love Your Neighbor: Lost & Least

Intro

- “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- We’re prone to selfishness—it comes so easily for us.
- Selfishness is culturally reinforced. ...We control our worlds for our comfort.

➤ *The Simpsons opening*

“Everything in my own immediate experience supports my deep belief that I am the absolute center of the universe, the realest, most vivid and important person in existence.”

–**David Foster Wallace**

- Transformation: Christians *care* about others.

“To love your neighbor as yourself means to meet the needs of your neighbor with the same force, joy, speed, and power, with which you meet your own. You put your happiness inside of their happiness, so that what makes them happy makes you happy.” –**Timothy Keller**

- We love those who are radically different from us...

Luke 10:25-37

The Self-Focused Heart *(v. 25-32)*

- “Desiring to justify himself...” Behind all racism, bigotry, looking down on others is self-righteousness.

- “Who is my neighbor?” = Whom can I not apply this to?
- The self-justifying response to a need (the Priest, the Levite).

Mercy in Focus (v. 33-35)

“The one who showed mercy (the Samaritan) risked his safety, destroyed his schedule, and became dirty and bloody through personal involvement with a needy person of another race and social class. Are we as Christians obeying this command personally?”

–**Timothy Keller**, *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*, 11

You Show What You See (v. 36-37)

- We received mercy (from Someone we had made our Enemy). Do we see this?
- When we’re shown mercy, we show mercy.

“We’re called to both gospel-messaging and gospel-neighboring.” –**Timothy Keller**

“Gospel-Messaging”

"If we're not feeling anguish over people's eternal state and ordering our lives around praying for and trying to find ways to bring the gospel to them, we are being lulled to sleep by the devil's soothing strains." -**John Bloom**, "Satan Will Sing You to Sleep," *Desiring God Blog*

"Gospel-Neighboring"

"Mercy relieves the consequences of sin in the lives of others (both sinners and those sinned against)." -**Sinclair Ferguson**, *The Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Life in a Fallen World*, 31

"Perhaps the most powerful evangelistic phrase you can teach a child is this: 'Do you want to come over to my house?' Invitations to join the family of God often begin with invitations to join your family at the dinner table. Hospitality is so rare these days. If we raise hospitable children by modeling hospitality in our own home, then we develop a culture of invitation among our family." -**Jen Wilkin**