

## Hey Jesus... Who's My Neighbor?

*Luke 10:25-37*

### SERMON SUMMARY

We are a tribal people. That is, we surround ourselves with other people who look like ourselves, think like ourselves, and act like ourselves. And our 'tribes' typically don't coexist with other tribes very well. Thus, when Jesus answers the question 'Who's my neighbor?' He suggests the answer is **'Live Alongside Your Neighbor, Not Inside Your Tribe'**. The question we have to ask and wrestle through is this: "Why do we end up living in tribes?" The parable of the Good Samaritan offers at least two reasons. (1) Priority. That is, our tribes dictate what we should prioritize. (2) Proximity. That is, our closeness or non-closeness to people will typically determine whether we are compassionate or suspicious of them. Jesus has a more beautiful aspiration for us. His heart is that we are always compassionate and merciful to the people who are hurting in front of us, regardless of who they are and what they think. And the reason we can be compassionate and merciful is because God was first compassionate and merciful towards us when He prioritized salvation and sent Jesus near in proximity to bring us back to life.

### KEY POINT

Jesus calls us to live alongside your neighbor, not inside your tribe.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. *Ice-breaker*: What do you think an alien would say about how humans interact with one another?
2. In the message, Kyle described us as a tribal people. Do you agree or disagree with the general take that we are a tribal people? If so, what are your tribes? Why is it so easy to stay in our tribes?
3. Read **Luke 10:25-29**. Who would you say is your neighbor?
4. Read **Luke 10:30-37**. In the end, who proved to be a neighbor? What does Jesus teach us about how to be a neighbor and "love your neighbor as yourself"? What does it look like to be compassionate and merciful to the people right in front of you?

5. Does the phrase, "If you're far from suffering you'll always be suspicious and if you're near to suffering you'll always be compassionate" resonate with you? Has that been true in your own life? Why is proximity important?
6. Consider the ways in which "tribes" place priorities on you (as they did with the priest and Levite in the story). How is this different from God's priority? What about you - Is your priority always people no matter what?
7. Jesus shows us the example of a loving neighbor as one who shows compassion and mercy. How can you "Go and do likewise" this week?

## **BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED**

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." **Luke 10:25-37**

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