

crossing the road

Journey with Jesus:
Matthew 19:16-21:32

April 3, 2016
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When I have I crossed the road?

1. I have crossed the road when I take _____
on those in need. Luke 10:33

2. I have crossed the road when I take _____
of those in need. Luke 10:34

3. I have crossed the road when I take _____
_____ for those in need. Luke 10:35

TAKE HOME TRUTH

I have crossed the road when I show _____
to my neighbor. Luke 10:36-37

Today's Core Practice:

I Give Away my Life: I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes. (from Romans 12:1 & Matthew 28:19-20)

Today's Action: Who can you reach out to this week and demonstrate mercy? Make an appointment to accomplish that before next Sunday.

hand in
hand
verse by
verse

Deeper Connection Study

The law expert was doing just fine in his conversation with Jesus until he asked a question in order to justify himself. He asked Jesus what seemed to be a simple question: "Who is my neighbor?" He had no idea about the ramifications of Jesus' response. As you look at this parable afresh, remember that how we view others and care for them have huge implications for the proclamation of the gospel. We are not just a mouthpiece of God communicating his gospel to others...we actually become the hands and feet of God in our witness to others.

Today's Core Practice discussed: Giving Away My Life.

Read Luke 10:25-37

1. How radical was Jesus' point in this parable? How do you think it shocked the law expert? How does it challenge you?
2. How has someone been a "neighbor" to you? What did they do that made you feel valued or loved?
3. Who would you consider as the disenfranchised or neglected people in your neighborhood and community? How can you use your resources to help them?
4. What are some of the most pressing needs of your "neighbors?" How can you help them in tangible ways? What does it cost you to love your neighbor (cf. I John 3:17-18)?
5. How can you actively widen the circle of your influence to include others? Who is your neighbor? Who have you excluded from your idea of who is your neighbor?
6. What would happen if everyone in your church loved their neighbor as Jesus indicated in this parable? What implications would this have on how we share the gospel with others as well as how they might receive it?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his incredible love! Pray for God to bust your comfort zone and help you love your "neighbor" and meet their needs. Ask God to work in your heart and through your actions to love others as Jesus did.

Who's My Neighbor?



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ost people in North America have heard of the Good Samaritan. This parable that Jesus told to a teacher of the law has become iconic to the point that anyone who steps in to help someone in need is called a "Good Samaritan." There is even a "Good Samaritan Law" that has been put into place to protect anyone who offers assistance to an individual who has been injured or is incapacitated.

Yet, as well known as this parable is, few probably understand its context and subsequent implication. When Jesus crafted this parable for the hardhearted scribe, he did so to show him that his refusal to love his neighbor was in fact a failure to love God. Thus the particulars in the parable are to turn common perceptions of spirituality on its head. How about you, have you made the connection between loving God and others, or do you still measure your spirituality based upon your biblical knowledge?