

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 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 given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, 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 while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

How precious to us are your thoughts Gracious One
HOW VAST THE SUM OF THEM

*I am so distant from the hope of myself
in which I have goodness, and discernment
and never hurry through the world,
but walk slowly, and bow often.*

Mary Oliver

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been perfected, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Philippians 3

Blessed are the merciful, they shall receive mercy
Matthew 5

Grandson Everett aged almost 11 months has it in him to play the piano, to do geometry, to write poetry. He does not even know what those things are. But they are in him. The lawyer is a baby at loving. We are babies at loving. The lawyer is focused on his known or felt limits. Jesus dismisses them. He sees what's in the lawyer...and us.

And what's in us is mercy. More than we have imagined. Much more. This is one of the impacts of the parable. Imagine such gratuitous mercy as that Samaritan demonstrated. Witness the mercy extended by Jesus on every page of the Gospel record. Mercy, mercy, mercy. We barely know of what mercy we are capable----but Jesus knows.

What everyone in our world needs today is mercy. Gratuitous mercy. Starting with us.

Like the lawyer, we'd really like some clarity with respect to the definition of that term in the commandment---neighbor. And we're hoping that Jesus' definition of neighbor roughly approximates our own. Frederick Buechner has written a well known reflection on this:

When Jesus said to love your neighbor, a lawyer who was present asked him to clarify what he meant by neighbor. He wanted a legal definition he could refer to in case the question of loving one ever happened to come up. He presumably wanted something on the order of: "A neighbor (hereinafter referred to as the party of the first part) is to be construed as meaning a person of Jewish descent whose legal residence is within a radius of no more than three statute miles from one's own legal residence unless there is another person of Jewish descent (hereinafter to be referred to as the party of the second part) living closer to the party of the first part than one is oneself, in which case the party of the second part is to be construed as neighbor to the party of the first part and one is oneself relieved of all responsibility of any sort or kind whatsoever.

Instead, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, the point of which seems to be that your neighbor is to be construed as meaning anybody who needs you. The lawyer's response is left unrecorded.

The lawyer, and you and me, and most everyone, are as half dead as the man laying on the side of the road because on a good day we are functioning at, say, 50% of our capacity for mercy. That's our comfort zone. That's what we have time and energy for. What a tragedy. So the lawyer asks the question-----hoping Jesus will allow him to stay within his half dead comfort zone. Jesus in his mercy, does not allow that. Jesus in his mercy gives him a life restoring word, he pours the wine of his mercy and the oil of his compassion on the lawyer telling him you have it in you to be merciful beyond your wildest imagination. Go and do likewise, go and demonstrate gratuitous mercy, go and be the hero in someone's story.

Who will you pull from a ditch today? You know everyone in this room is in some kind of ditch-----needing mercy. Everyone you encounter every place you go is in some kind of ditch---needing mercy. So many tears being cried in our world today. So much blood being shed. We are a family of wounded people, we humans, caught up in a cycle of unhealed anguish----needing, above all, mercy.

We have it in us, more than enough to pull one another from the ditch, to stop the bleeding, to be neighbor to one another. Jesus sees it in us. In his mercy, may we see it too.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

July 14, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Who is it that you seek?

WE SEEK THE LORD OUR GOD

Do you seek Him with all your heart? With all your soul? With all your mind?

AMEN LORD HAVE MERCY

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

AMEN CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lighting of the Candles

"The foundation of the whole building is humility." Teresa of Avila

284 Gather Us In vs 1, 3, 4

We Welcome One Another as Christ

557 Just a Closer Walk With Thee

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"The soul's capacity far transcends our imagining..." Teresa of Avila

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own

"Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Search us God, and know our hearts

SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN US, AND LEAD US TO THE WAY EVERLASTING

THE GOSPEL LUKE 10: 25-37

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "We Have It In Us" Rev. Rob Carr

Lord, we will trust you. Help us to journey beyond the familiar, and into the unknown.

Give us faith to leave old ways, and break fresh ground with you.

Strengthen us with your blessing, and appoint us to the task.

We choose to live beyond regret and let you recreate our lives. Amen.

Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving

"Aloha No Kona" Debbie Rommel

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

404 A Hymn of Joy We Sing

Let us praise the wounds and the blood of the Lamb
THAT HEALS THE WEAKNESS OF OUR BODIES
THAT HEALS THE WEAKNESS OF OUR SOULS
THAT HEALS THE WEAKNESS OF OUR SPIRITS
For whoever believes in the power of the blood of Jesus
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

Christ our light, illumine and guide us
TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?
YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE
And we have believed and come to know
THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD

The Communion Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

433 Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us
TO ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

TO OUR GUESTS-----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Tuesday 9:45AM Men's Bible Group

VITAL CONVERSATION WEDNESDAY 1PM

Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

Saturday 11AM-1PM Scout Picnic

Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

“PUZZLE”

You are invited to Movies & Munchies Saturday, July 20, 7:00 at the home of Marilyn Graves. The movie is "Puzzle" which can be found on Amazon Prime. David Nelson can provide a study guide by request. It provides enough info so that even if you don't have time to see the movie, you could still come and join in the discussion. Please RSVP to Marilyn.

UPCOMING

PARKING LOT RESURFACING-----JULY 23

MUSIC SUNDAY AUGUST 4

JEFF Nunn is ready to receive suggestions for hymns to be sung that day. Feel free to email or text him OR use the basket provided on the piano. Last year's Music Sunday was a hit. Invite a friend!

YOU, ME, AND THE ENNEAGRAM

Part One of the Enneagram Workshop, offered again for our community by Lori Hall
Friday, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th
Details forthcoming!

CHERITH BROOK SEEKING ITEMS

such as small men's and women's undies, sugar, razors, bike locks, gauze pads and medical tape, for their friends experiencing homelessness.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Join us on Sunday August 18 at Smithville Lake for the Baptism of our good friend Howard Dolginoff. Directions to our usual place at the lake will be provided at the date approaches.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Our annual brown bag lunch celebration with a blessing of backpacks and recognition of teachers is scheduled for August 18. Wonderful opportunity to invite a friend!