

Go, and Do Likewise

Parable People

Luke 10:35-47

Jesus tells this story in response to a lawyer's question about eternal life and who qualifies as a neighbor. Like many of us, the lawyer seems to be looking for a definition, or a limit. But Jesus shifts the focus entirely. Instead of helping us identify who our neighbor is, he invites us to consider whether we are becoming neighbors ourselves.

*** Why do you think the lawyer wanted a clear definition of "neighbor," and how do we sometimes look for similar limits today?**

*** What changes when we stop asking "Who is my neighbor?" and start asking "How can I become a neighbor?"**

As the story unfolds, three people encounter the wounded man. The priest and Levite pass by, while the Samaritan stops and responds. It's almost as if the Samaritan saw something the others didn't. Perhaps the difference wasn't that he was a better person, but that he was attentive to what God was already doing. "Ancient work" is the idea that God has been at work restoring and healing the world long before we arrive on the scene. We often place ourselves in the role of the hero, but the story reminds us that God is the one doing the sacred work. Our calling is to faithfully show up and participate.

*** Where do you see God already at work restoring, healing, or blessing people around you?**

*** What might prevent us from noticing opportunities to join God in the work he is already doing?**

Jesus ends with a simple but challenging command: "Go and do likewise." The invitation is not just to admire the Samaritan's actions but to live the same way. Becoming neighbors is part of who we are as God's people, not simply something we do occasionally. As a church, our focus is to bless our city and serve our community. Those efforts are important, but they are not the finish line. They are opportunities to be formed by the Spirit, to participate in God's work, and to become the people Jesus is calling us to be. Every encounter becomes an opportunity to be a neighbor.

*** How is God inviting you to become a neighbor in your everyday life right now?*** What would it look like for our church to be known as a community that consistently "goes and does likewise"?