

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 01/28/24

Sermon: Ted - The Good Samaritan

Text: Luke 10:25-37

Eternal life and who inherits it was the question that provided the setting for the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which teaches us what it is to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. We learn that religious observance devoid of mercy falls short in Jesus' eyes, as is in the case of the Priest and the Levite who pass by the man in need. The Samaritan man proved to be the true neighbor but if we take the whole of the New Testament into consideration we have to say that even great acts of mercy on our part do not achieve eternal life for us. The point of the parable is that Jesus is an even greater type of Samaritan who had compassion even on his enemies. He paid generously through his self-sacrifice so that we could be healed and forgiven of our trespasses and sins. Jesus has covered our debt with the Father in a similar way that the Samaritan man covered the expenses of the man who was left half dead in the road.

Questions/Discussion:

1. How do we traditionally define "neighbor" and how does the parable of the Good Samaritan increase the scope of that definition?
2. Here we are. Community groups meeting in homes in neighborhoods among people with real needs. The greatest gift we can give anyone is the message of Christ — and to saturate our community with the gospel is our goal. But what kind of vision does this parable give us for showing the mercy and compassion that Jesus has shown to us?
 - The Sojourners group recently chose to serve international students (sojourners themselves) from WSU a meal once a month. Way to go, Sojourners! Is there an avenue in which your community group can be good neighbors?
3. What does James 2:14-17 reveal to us about real faith and our obligation to the victimized, those in poverty, and the helpless?
4. The Lawyer asked the question, "*and who is my neighbor*" to try to justify myself. What does it mean to be justified? How do we often try to justify our own lack of engagement?
5. We've all proved to be lackluster in our love for God and we've all been sorry neighbors at one point or another. Thankfully, that's not the case with Jesus! How does the cross fulfill the great commandments to love God and neighbor?