

B.L.E.S.S.

5 Everyday Ways Love Your Neighbor and Change the World

Share

Series Overview

Jesus said we're to love our neighbors. As part of our B.L.E.S.S. campaign based on the book by Dave and Jon Ferguson, in this sermon series, we want to consider practical, everyday ways that we can love our neighbors, to bless them, and in so doing, point them to the greatest blessing of all: a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Sermon Introduction

Telling someone about Jesus can seem like an intimidating proposition. A lot of times, our fear falls along the lines of: *What if they ask a question I can't answer? I'm not a bible scholar!* But while you might not be a bible scholar or an expert in theology, you are an expert when it comes to what God has done in your life. If you want to tell someone about Jesus, often the best –and the most compelling–place to start is to simply share your story.

Passage: John 9:1-25 (NIV)

John 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

John 9:2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

John 9:3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

John 9:4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

John 9:5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 9:6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

John 9:7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

John 9:8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

John 9:9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

John 9:10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded.

John 9:11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

John 9:12 “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

John 9:14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

John 9:15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

John 9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided.

John 9:17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

John 9:18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.

John 9:19 “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

John 9:20 “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.

John 9:21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.”

John 9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.

John 9:23 That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

John 9:24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

John 9:25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing (other than Jesus’ method for healing the man’s blindness)?
2. Why do you think the disciples assumed that someone had sinned—either the man or his parents—to cause his blindness (v. 2)?
3. What do you think of Jesus’ answer in v. 3?
4. Is there a particular challenge you’re facing that could be an opportunity for God to display his awesome work in you? What could that look like?

5. Read vv. 6-7. Why do you think Jesus' employed such an elaborate method to heal the man's blindness (cf. Luke 18:35-43)?
6. The man's story is incredibly simple: before he was blind, but because of Jesus now he can see (vv. 11 and 15). Who were you before and who are you now because of Jesus?
7. Why is sharing your story usually more persuasive and compelling than arguments for Christian beliefs or proofs for God or Jesus?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Praise God that he interrupted humanity's tragic story to write for us a new and better story.
- Thank him that you're not who you were before Jesus rescued you.
- Ask God for the opportunity and the courage to share your story with someone you know.
- Continue to pray for the person or family you've committed to bless:

"Heavenly Father, I want to be a blessing to _____. Help me to take the time to listen to what they have to say, eat with them, serve them, and share my story with them so that they could see You in me. I pray that they would know You the way that I know You. Use me to make the introduction. Amen."