

B.L.E.S.S.

5 Everyday Ways Love Your Neighbor and Change the World

Listen

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

Hearing is an ability. Listening is a skill. If we're going to love our neighbors well, before we talk, we have to learn to listen.

Passage: Luke 18:35-43 (NIV)

Luke 18:35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

Luke 18:36 When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

Luke 18:37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Luke 18:38 He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Luke 18:39 Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Luke 18:40 Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

Luke 18:41 "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see," he replied.

Luke 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

Luke 18:43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?
2. Why do you think Jesus' response to the man was so different from the crowd's?

3. Why do you think that Jesus asked the man what he wanted him to do for him?
4. Have you ever felt like someone you were talking to wasn't really listening to you? How did that make you feel?
5. What do you think prevents us from listening to other people?
6. In our American society today, what practical differences do you think it would make if we made an effort to listen and not just be heard?
7. Do you think people would describe you as a good listener? How do you think you could listen better?

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 is always listening when we pray to him.
- Confess those times when you've been either too busy or too distracted to really listen to someone else.
- Ask God to make you a better, more understanding listener.
- This week, 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."