



love where you live

Love Where You Live

Part 5 – *Neighboring the hurting and struggling*

Oct 24 & 25 | Speaker: Paul Foss, Associate Pastor

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:31-40 NIV [31] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. [34] “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35] For **I was hungry** and you gave me something to eat, **I was thirsty** and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger** and you invited me in, [36] **I needed clothes** and you clothed me, **I was sick** and you looked after me, **I was in prison** and you came to visit me.’ [37] “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘**Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?** [38] When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? [39] When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ [40] “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you did for me.**’

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Recap:

The Good Samaritan could only be a good neighbor when he prioritized the needs of the other over his own personal plan.

Richard told us we can only be truly free to love through surrender. He challenged us to learn the names of our neighbors; be more interested in listening than being interesting... learn your neighbors’ story; and finally pray for our neighbors... We are to be good neighbors because we are Christians not to make them Christians... The Holy Spirit will convict and convert.

Seeing our neighborhood as our primary mission field... seeing neighboring as a bridge that goes both ways... I have found an awesome tool to help with Richard's challenge... blesseveryhome.com is a free app that will tell you the names of your 40 closest neighbors. It will prompt you every morning to pray for 4 of them by name... take out your phone and sign up now... it's ok!

I was hungry... what does this tell us about the Cross

I was thirsty... what does this tell us about the cross

I was a stranger... what does this tell us about the cross

I was naked... what does this tell us about the cross

I was sick... what does this tell me about the cross

I was in prison... what does this tell me about the cross

Loving God with my whole heart and loving my neighbor as myself is really just two sides of the same coin... when you see Jesus in the face of your neighbor, when you serve your neighbor, Jesus says you are serving Him... in other words, by serving your neighbor you are loving God and by loving God you will out of gratitude love your neighbor... and the merry-go-round never stops... nor should it!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

- ☐ What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
- ☐ Read Matt 25:40. What stands out to you in this passage?
- ☐ What application did you respond to? (all meal; serving day; food drop)
- ☐ How did changing the story to you directly serving Jesus change things for you?
- ☐ What is the readers digest version of your rescue story?
- ☐ Check out Damascus.com/neighbor and select the things you can do to better equip yourself to love your neighbors.

NOTES