

# JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES



## Pt2: The Good Samaritan, Minnesotans, & Pasadenan

Pastor Tom Kang

Ice Breaker: We've turned the Good Samaritan from a "grenade into a greeting card." Discuss.

1. The sermon pointed out that the lawyer wasn't really seeking wisdom; he was seeking a loophole. His question "Who is my neighbor?" was really asking, "Who can I ignore?" When have you caught yourself drawing boundaries around who "deserves" your compassion? What categories or labels do you tend to hide behind?
2. The beaten man in the parable (Luke 10:30-35) was stripped of every visible identifier – no clothing, no tribal markers, no status. He was just a human being in need. Why do you think Jesus set up the story this way? How would it change your daily interactions if you saw people without their "labels" first?
3. Just one chapter before the Good Samaritan in Luke 9:54, James and John wanted to call fire down on the Samaritans. Then in Luke 10, Jesus makes a Samaritan the hero. Why do you suppose the Bible does this?
4. The Greek word for "took pity" in Luke 10:33 is *splanchnizomai* (σπλαγχνίζομαι) and it describes a gut-level, involuntary, full-body response. The Gospels use this word almost exclusively for Jesus (ex: Mark 1:40-42). What does it tell us that the Samaritan shares this same response? How is the Samaritan a portrait of Jesus Himself?
5. The sermon made a key distinction: the lawyer asked "Who IS my neighbor?" – a static category. But Jesus asked "Who BECAME a neighbor?" – an action. And the Greek word for neighbor literally means "the one who draws near." Read James 2:14-17, where James says faith without action is dead. In what area of your life is your compassion still theoretical - something you believe but have not yet acted on?
6. Pastor Tom mentioned, "Compassion without proximity is just an opinion." Then he pointed to one of our own young adults, Calvin, who - when a camera was on - didn't dodge a hard topic but also didn't make it political. He just simply talked about another one of our own young adults, Leo, and what Leo's family was going through. How do you talk about complicated, real-world situations in a way that centers people over positions? What can we learn from Calvin's example?
7. Dallas Willard said, "I do not come to my enemy and then try to love them; I come to them as a loving person." That's a shift from doing love to being love. Read 1 John 4:19-21, where John connects loving God to loving the people right in front of us. As you continue this Lenten journey, what is one practical, specific step you can take this week to "become a neighbor" to someone you've been passing by?



This Lent, we invite you to join Journey to Jerusalem which will challenge you to move beyond listening into active participation. Each week, trail markers in the lobby will feature a QR code that will lead you to guided responses including Scripture, reflection questions, fasting challenges, and prayer walks. This seven-week journey will draw you deeper into a pilgrimage with Jesus, toward the cross and resurrection. Let's take this journey together!