

Lesson 10

LESSON 10, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

The ministry of Jesus is growing. He sent out the 12 disciples to proclaim the “good news”; now he sends out 72 into the world to grow the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is not for lukewarm Christians; it is for those who have a passion to be a part of it and for those whose lives are transformed by the love of Jesus.

1. Read Luke 10:1-19. What details do you notice about how Jesus sent out the 72? Why do you think he sent them out in twos? Are they effective? How does Matthew 11:12 relate to these verses?

The arrival of Jesus is meant to not only change our lives but to change the world. The rest of Luke 10 is about Jesus breaking down the societal barriers of the world.

2. Read Luke 10:25-37. What does Jesus say is the litmus test for gaining eternal life in verse 27? In the next two stories, who qualifies as our “neighbors”?

3. Samaritans were abhorred by the Jews. They were Jews who had mixed blood with Gentiles. They were thought of as “less than.” What do we know about the other two who passed by the wounded man? Why do you think they didn’t want to deal with the man? What stops us from reaching out to those who are our neighbors?

4. What does this say to you that the one who had pity and stopped was a hated Samaritan?

5. Read the rest of Luke 10. What is the situation? What is Martha's question to Jesus? What is Jesus' response?

In the world of Jesus, women were relegated to separate rooms from the men. They were not welcome into the circles of learning. Their job was in the kitchen. Mary is choosing to be where only men were admitted.

6. Can you think of other Bible stories where women are honored and not forgotten by Jesus?

APPLICATION: What "neighbor" is God putting on your heart to help and love as Jesus did? What stops you from forcefully advancing with the gospel message (Matthew 11:12)?

PRAYER: Holy Father of all, you desire that we move in love and compassion towards all people you have created. Show us where we fall short of the command to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us opportunities to breach any barriers of prejudice that keep us from being all you have called us to be. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen