

SERMON SERIES: This Is Us: Local Impact

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Key Line

We care about people in our community because Jesus cares about them.

Introduction

Think of a time someone in the community did something helpful for you when you were in need of help. How did you feel when that happened? Was that a positive experience or a negative or both? Why?

Seek the Word

Read Luke 10:25-37.

- What did the expert in the Law ask Jesus? (*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*)
- What was Jesus' answer? (*He asked the man what the Law said.*) How did the man answer? (*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*)
- What did the man want to know after that? (*He asked who his neighbor was.*) Why do you think the man wanted a definition of "neighbor"?
- Summarize the story of the Good Samaritan. Who were the characters and what did they do? (*A man, robbers, a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan.*)
- Why was it significant that the Samaritan was the one who stopped to help the man? How did the Jews feel about Samaritans and why? (*The Jewish people did not like the Samaritans. They refused to be near them or interact with them at all because they saw them as unclean. Samaritans were people with a Jewish heritage who had intermarried with the non-Jews around them and were, therefore, disobeying Jewish Law. There were very bad feelings between Jews and Samaritans.*)

Talk About It

- Why do you think Jesus chose these particular characters? Why did he choose a Samaritan as the "good guy"? Why did he choose the priest and Levite as the ones who passed by without helping? (*He was showing that our love for our neighbors should not be contingent on who they are, their ethnicity, nationality, social status, background, immigration status. It should be contingent on our love for Jesus.*)
- What motivates us to reach out to others around us? (*Our knowledge that God has had mercy on us; our love for Jesus, our care for balancing the scales--making unjust situations just.*)
- What are some ways the church is reaching out to our local community? (*Partnerships with schools in Bellevue and Papillion.*)

- What are some ways you as individuals or as a group might join in that outreach to the community?