

Talk it Over: Heroes, Week 2

August 14-15, 2021

Looking back at the message this weekend, what was the key thought for you?

Key Scripture

“But the Lawyer wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And **who is my neighbor?**’” Luke 10:29

Other Scriptures

Luke 10:25-37, Mark 12:28-31, Leviticus 19:18

Key Thoughts

‘Hero’ = ‘**Saves** the Day!’

What is the greatest commandment?

‘You must love the **Lord** your God with all your **heart**, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind...’ Mk 12:30

‘...AND you must love your **neighbor** as you love **yourself.**’ Mk 12:31

We must change from My Neighbor = My People to My Neighbor = **All People**

Big Idea: God isn’t looking for superheroes, just those who will see others and He sees them and meets needs as He provides.

Start Talking

Ice Breaker: Have you ever seen someone in need and felt conflicted about whether to help them? Why do you think you felt this way? What makes you more likely to stop and

help? What might cause you to go on and let someone else handle it. Share your experience with the group.

Start Thinking & Sharing

Pastor Troy spoke on a very familiar story to many people including those who don’t know much about the Bible. Even if you are new to church, you have probably heard of the Good Samaritan. This story would have seemed impossible for ordinary Jews to accept during Jesus’ time. Why did Troy say this story was so shocking? Who were the Samaritans and what might be an equivalent today for somebody in the USA?

This conversation all began with a simple discussion about what is the greatest commandment. How does Jesus connect loving God with loving people? What does this tell us about just how radical Jesus’ message is... even today?

If Samaritans and Jews usually had nothing to do with each other, why do you think this Samaritan helped the man in need? Take a few minutes to discuss these questions. (Hint: look at Luke 10:33 – The Samaritan saw the man and had pity on him.) God isn’t looking for superheroes, just those who will answer the call in little moments. We already have a superhero; His name is Jesus. But you can be hero to someone in need this week.

Before you can be a hero, you have to truly see those in need. Discuss with the group what tends to get in the way when you are deciding whether to help. Do you have to meet every need? Why or why not?

Start Praying

The Samaritan had to go through a transformation before he acted to help the stranger on the road. He had to go from the mindset of “They aren’t my people nor my responsibility to everyone deserves God’s love and I should help them if possible.” This is a radical message that would change the world if more people believed it.

Take a few moments and think about who are the type of people that are easy and difficult for you to help. Draw a line down the center of the paper. On the left name or describe those who are easy for you to help. And on the right, write the name or describe those who are hard or maybe almost impossible for you to help. It could be family members; it could be a pesky neighbor. Or maybe it is people far away that you don’t really understand.

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Quietly take some time to pray over those two lists. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see people on both lists as the same. Ask the Spirit to show you the need that you can meet. Ask Him for a burden for those who are hard to love. This isn't easy. But it is the first step. We have to see before we can act in a meaningful way.

Start Doing

Jesus turned the lawyer's question upside down. Instead of deciding who our neighbor is by who they are, Jesus calls us to decide by what kind of people we want to be. Jesus told this remarkable story about the Good Samaritan, then He said, "Go do likewise." So, let's put this new vision into action. Take one person or group from the right side of your list and pair it with someone on the left side who seems connected or similar in some way. Over the next week pray for both and ask for God to show you some way to serve, love and connect with each person or group. This may be inconvenient. It may hurt a little. It will likely cost you something. But you have to be willing to take risks if you want to love like Jesus.