



Sermon Discussion Guide


“Love Thy Neighbor”

Luke 10:25-37

Rev. Ray Cortese, January 3 & 4, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Luke 10:25-37. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What is the first thing that came to mind when you heard of the new series, “Love Thy Neighbor?” Ray gave the example of caloric information posted on food and at restaurants. Why doesn’t information alone provide sufficient motivation for change in our lives?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

NEIGHBOR LOVE – THE PREREQUISITE

- 3 What was the lawyer’s intention in coming to Jesus with his question? How does he respond after Jesus says, “Do this and you will live”? How should he have responded instead?

- 4 What should you say to someone who says, “I don’t have what it takes to be a Christian”? Do you see yourself as the wounded man in the road? Can you recall a time when you were truly humbled by your spiritual bankruptcy and yet you realized that God loved you?

NEIGHBOR LOVE – ILLUSTRATED

- 5 Have you ever been guilty of the blindness of the priest and the Levite? Can you recall a time when you missed a person in need who was right in front of you?
- 6 Why was no one expecting the hero of the parable to be a Samaritan?
- 7 Read 1 John 3:17. Why is neighbor love not optional for the follower of Christ? Have there been times in your life when you have treated it as optional?
- 8 How did the Samaritan tangibly express neighbor love? How can you get involved and get your hands dirty showing neighbor love? How have you seen someone else give their life away for a person, or people, in need?
- 9 We want to love people we like and people who are like us. What is shocking about the kind of neighbor love that Jesus shows and demands? Why is true neighbor love risky?
- 10 How is Jesus our “Great Samaritan”?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?