

Close Friends, Part 2 - Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-29

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. 'And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

- "Who is my neighbor?" is a question everyone asks.

Deuteronomy 6:16

You must not put the LORD your God to the test...

Proverbs 17:3

Gold and silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by the LORD.

- We often ask questions we know the answers to.

Luke 10:27

The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. 'And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Matthew 22:40

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 John 4:20

But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we can see?

Matthew 25:45

"And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'"

- **Withholding love from our neighbor is unjust.**

Luke 10:29

...And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:30-37

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

- **Loving our neighbor leads to life.**

Luke 10:28

"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

How to Befriend Our Neighbors

1. **Address their wounds with oil and wine.**
2. **Bring them to church.**

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

3. **Invest in the church that will care for them.**

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

- The answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" is the gospel story.