



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series  
Supports Session 1: Neighbors?  
Sermon Title: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"  
Passage: Luke 10:30-37

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### Connection to Luke 10

The expert in the law sought to relieve himself of the ethical obligation to love all people by asking Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In a parable, Jesus explained that a neighbor is anyone in need and challenged the man to show love to all people.

### Introduction/Opening

For 33 years, Fred Rogers invited people to be his neighbor. The last stanza of the introductory song to his show said:

So, let's make the most of this beautiful day.  
Since we're together we might as well say,  
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?  
Won't you be my neighbor?  
Won't you please, won't you please,  
Please won't you be my neighbor?

Those last three phrases are the plea of many around us and throughout the world: "Won't you be my neighbor, won't you please, won't you please, please won't you be my neighbor?". People all around us need a neighbor and the Lord expects us to be good neighbors to them.

### Outline

1. A good neighbor sees needs (v. 33b).
  - a. The priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan all saw the wounded man, but the priest and Levite didn't really see him. They may have seen his beaten body, but they did not really see the man for who he was or his need. It is as if they looked right through him.
  - b. Only the Samaritan took the time to really look at the man, size up the situation, assess his worth as a human, and come to the conclusion that something had to be done.
  - c. A good neighbor sees all people as having intrinsic value because they have been created in the image of God, and takes the time to look at the real physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people around them.

2. A good neighbor sympathizes with the needy (v. 33c).
  - a. It is not enough to see only. A neighbor is one who is moved by what he sees. The priest saw, but was not moved. The Levite saw but felt nothing.
  - b. Jesus said the Samaritan saw the man and felt compassion. In the original language of the New Testament, the word “compassion” speaks of the inner parts of the body, most specifically the intestines. In its verb form it means to have your inner parts moved.
  - c. When the Samaritan saw the victim—beaten, bleeding, and dying—he was moved. He hurt for the beaten man and hurt with him.
  
3. A good neighbor serves the needy (vv. 34-35).
  - a. Having really seen the man and his needs, and being moved by those needs, the Samaritan acted. He served the wounded man.
  - b. He bandaged up the man’s wounds, put him on his own donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him. He even paid for an extended stay at the inn. His service cost him time, money, and effort. The Samaritan spent himself in loving service of a person in need.
  - c. A good neighbor spends himself serving others. A good neighbor rolls up his sleeves and gets dirty in ministry. A good neighbor is one who doesn’t wait on someone else to serve but jumps in and does the serving. A good neighbor will sit and listen to a hurting friend. A good neighbor will visit a dying coworker in the hospital. A good neighbor will serve soup at a homeless shelter. A good neighbor will take a fatherless boy fishing. A good neighbor will tell someone about Jesus.

## Conclusion

When asked the greatest commandment Jesus said, “love God” and the second one is like it, “love your neighbor as yourself.” What Jesus said to that lawyer was to slow down, stop trying to climb your own mountains, stop stepping over hurting and dying people, and be a neighbor. Have you been a neighbor lately? Have you loved someone as you love yourself? Have you taken the initiative to be a neighbor? The world is crying, “Won’t you be my neighbor?” So go be a neighbor.

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