

# WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Mark Sherman - 11.10.24 - Luke 10:25-37

## An unexpected lesson from a man in a cardigan.

- Fred Rogers' gentle question, "Won't you be my neighbor?" was more than a friendly greeting; it was an invitation to care, to love, and to recognize each other as equals no matter our background or struggles.

## An unexpected hero.

- Luke 10:25-37 (NIV) The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- **25** *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* **26** *"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"* **27** *He answered, "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.'"* **28** *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."* **29** *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"* **30** *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.* **31** *A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.* **32** *So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.* **33** *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.* **34** *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.* **35** *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.'* **36** *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"* **37** *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

## A call for connection

- Our society is built on radical individualism, which runs counter to the radical availability and compassion Jesus calls us to embrace. Here in America, we live in a culture that often values individualism over community.
- We all have blind spots and can help each other. My Kenyan friend, Francis Njogu, pointed out that while America is materially rich, we often lack richness in relationships with those living right around us.

- 1 Peter 4:8-11 (NIV): "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."
- Let's be known as the *people* of Cornerstone. Let's be known as people who treat others like Jesus died for them (because he did!)

### **Introducing "Missional Communities"**

- A missional community is a group of Cornerstone members who live out God's mission together in a specific area by both demonstrating and declaring the gospel in tangible ways to others. Missional Communities go beyond small groups, Bible studies, or support groups. They are groups of people united by a shared passion for loving the Lord and serving their neighbors, with an intentional focus on making a difference in their own neighborhoods.
- Start by joining the group in the city where you reside, but feel free to connect with other communities to stay informed and serve neighboring towns as opportunities arise.
- Three unique ways to love your city: (1) Participate in a city event near you; (2) Partner with a local nonprofit; (3) Host a block party in your neighborhood.
- Text "Missions" to 951-425-4425 to sign up for a missional community. Don't forget to register for Missions Night on November 14th to hear more impact stories as well as get a glimpse of what's in store for 2025.

### **A big transition.**

- Text "Shermans" to 951-425-4425 to follow our journey and stay connected.