

Intro

- Neighboring Series
 - Art of Neighboring book by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon
 - Several Churches in the area
 - Galilee, JFUMC, Southside, Jefferson Church, Crossroads Church, Jefferson Presbyterian, JFBC, Hope Crossings
 - Bows
- Today's message will focus on who is our neighbor

Luke 10:25-37 ESV

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

- I would venture to say that most people in this building when asked "What did Jesus say is the greatest commandment?" you could quote or paraphrase verse 27 here in Luke 10
- V. 27 'You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself'
- Lawyer wanted to justify himself it tells us and find the 'loophole'
 - He wanted to qualify who his neighbor was
 - Missed the lesson Jesus was trying to teach
- We 2000 years later can miss the point and miss the power of the Great Commandment
 - 'Everyone is my neighbor'
 - Excuse to avoid the purpose of the Great Commandment
 - Definition of neighbor becomes too broad
 - People across towns
 - Those helped by organizations and our donations
 - Helped by the government
 - We don't have to feel guilty because we are helping our neighbors

- When we aim for everything we hit nothing
 - When we insist we are neighbors with everybody, often we end up being neighbors with no one
 - Human nature
 - Become like the lawyer
 - We are busy, that's what we tell ourselves
 - Great Commandment applies only to the wounded enemy lying beside the road, doesn't it?
 - Since we haven't come across any of those lately we are doing fine?, Aren't we?
 - We are loving are neighbors?
- Jesus
 - Assumed his audience would be able to love their literal neighbors, those people who looked like them, talked like them and lived beside them
 - He was stretching their concept of neighbor to include people outside their circle
- Today
 - We go straight for loving the neighbor on the side of the road
 - Metaphor of neighbors and a metaphor doesn't include the person who lives next door to us
 - It's different in 2017 than it was in Jesus day
 - We have went to the opposite end of the pendulum, where we will show compassion to a stranger, but don't know who lives next door to us!
- Real People
 - Let's apply the Great Commandment to our literal neighbors
 - Real people, with real names, real phone numbers, real addresses
- Exercise
 - Warning- this may hurt
 - 8 closest homes to you
 - A. Names, First names are fine
 - B. Info, not- info you can see from your driveway, info from speaking to them
 - C. Connecting info= dreams, fears, purpose, beliefs, real interaction
 - Don't feel bad (According to the book)
 - 10% of people can fill out names of all
 - 3% can fill out line b for all
 - Less than 1% can fill out line c for all
- Purpose is not to make us feel bad
- Purpose is for us to learn how to love our neighbor
- In order for us to love someone it helps to actually know their name
 - Names
 - Moves from 'hey man' to hey Mike to hey Mike how are you doing to hey Mike can you help me with something real quick to Hey Mike I saw that your elderly mother-in-law moved in with ya'll how is that?

Closing

Acts 26-27 ESV

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

- You have been placed in your neighborhood for a reason
- Pray about it
- How is God going to use you to reach your neighbors?