

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/13/2019

Luke 10:25-37

QUESTIONS BY JESUS

"WHICH PROVED TO BE A NEIGHBOR?"

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on "Questions by Jesus", and spoke about the amazing compassion that a Samaritan man demonstrated to a Jewish victim that he encountered. This story gives us an example of how to love and reach out to "our neighbor."

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. **Read Luke 10:25-37.** This parable teaches that a real faith in Christ values people the way God values them, and demonstrates compassion to those who are in need around us. Living in southern California allows us to see many people around us in need.

What are some times in your life when you have experienced seeing someone in need, and you just weren't sure how to handle it? What are some practical tips you live your life by...tips that allow you to help in realistic, wise (not unduly taking risks), and tangible ways?

2. Pastor Mel shared that compassion flows out of a right relationship with God, because He is a God of compassion.

Read James 1:19-27. What is our obligation as believers when we read the Word according to this passage? How do we respond to the Word as it impacts our lives? When it comes to people who are different from us or less fortunate, how can we overlook the commands of the Word in many ways?

What is true religion and how would you see it differing from false religion in the context of this passage?

3. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.** This passage teaches about the importance of generosity. Discuss this passage and how it relates to the generosity of the Good Samaritan.

Define generosity and what it means to you, and the way you live your life in relationship with others.

How do you find the balance of being generous, but not enabling laziness or irresponsibility in the lives of others by your generosity?

The characters in this story had three distinct attitudes. They were:

- A. Thieves – *What's yours is mine.*
- B. Priest/Levite – *What's mine is mine.*
- C. Samaritan – *What's mine is yours.*

The attitude of the Samaritan certainly doesn't mean we give everything we have away, but it does reflect the way in which our resources can be used to help others. What are some lessons to be learned as you give or donate your resources to help others? What would you tell a young couple starting out in life about developing a giving spirit in their lives?

4. Pastor Mel taught that compassion requires a commitment to action. The Good Samaritan certainly understood that principle. Share some ways that your small group can identify a need in the church or in the community and seek to help meet that need. Brainstorm together about a project that might make a real difference in the lives of needy folk in the church or in your neighborhood or area.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that the Lord would give you the ability to identify people in your path who are needy, and that He would give you the wisdom to respond compassionately.