

Check Your Heart

Part 3: "Neighbors"

Introduction

Following Jesus requires that we love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. This begs the question of who does and doesn't fall into the neighbor category. According to Jesus, we don't get to decide.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you remember about the neighborhood you grew up in? Any particularly memorable neighbors?
2. Read Luke 10:25–37. In the passage, the command to "love your neighbor" was clear, but the expert in the law asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Why do you think we have a tendency to try to put parameters on the things God asks of us?
3. Jesus's response shifts the conversation from who is worthy of love to what it looks like to be a loving neighbor. What does this tell us about what it means to follow Jesus?
4. In Jesus's parable, the Samaritan did three notable things in order to love his neighbor:
 - He saw a need and met it.
 - He knew the price love would require and paid it.
 - He didn't talk himself out of it.

Which of these three steps is most difficult for you when it comes to loving your neighbor?

5. In the message, Samer made the statement, "*Your heart for God is validated and demonstrated by your heart for ALL people.*" Is there a category of people that is particularly difficult for you to approach with love and compassion?
6. The key difference between the Samaritan's approach and the religious leaders' approach is that the Samaritan considered what it would be like to be the one left for dead in the ditch. How might you put yourself in the shoes of the people you find most difficult to approach with mercy and compassion?