



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Ministries of Compassion and Justice

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

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’^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[a]”

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^[a] 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.”

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Eternal life is not secured by anything we do, eternal life is secured by what Jesus Christ has done. We are justified because of what Christ has done and we are saved because of what Jesus Christ has done on our behalf.

In order for us to follow God correctly and with integrity we must connect our love for God with love for our neighbor. The truest expression of our love for God is not praying and being kind in our hearts but is the concrete expression of our love for our neighbor.

- Fear keeps us from demonstration love for our neighbor.
Gospel Truth: Perfect love casts out all fear. Cultural Reality: Perpetual fear casts out love.
- Being so absorbed in our work where we are not able to see our God in our work or in our neighbor.

The Good Samaritan story is not just a story about compassion and love for our neighbor but a critique against religious passivity.

The Good Samaritan offers: Dignifying Attention, Compassion and Advocacy.

We are all in need of a Good Samaritan. Jesus Christ is the Good Samaritan who raises us out of the ditch.

We must recognize that we are not the Good Samaritan in this story. We must recognize that we are the man who lay there half dead. At some point in your life, you will find yourself in a ditch – whether it be economic, spiritual, psychological, financial, or social. The good news of the Gospel is that the Good Samaritan has come.

When the world has overlooked us, God comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ and washes our wounds. God comes in the person of Jesus Christ and rescues us from despair. We exist as followers of Jesus to participate in what he has done and what he is doing.

Jesus Christ knows what it means to be powerless and left for dead. Thank God that he knows how to get out of every ditch and raise us to newness of life.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, focuses on the parable of the Good Samaritan and highlights important areas of our lives and the life of our church family.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Who do you consider your neighbor? Are there people in your life who you are getting away with not seeing? It is impossible to say that we love God if we are not in loving relationships with our neighbors. Can you ask for God's forgiveness around those who you are not seeing while also asking for God's guidance to help you see your neighbors?
3. Being honest with yourself, to what degree are you being shaped by the larger culture of fear when it comes to loving your neighbor? Are you unable to love your neighbor because you are afraid, or because you are absorbed in your work?
4. Where is the Holy Spirit calling you today? Do you feel led to begin living with a larger sense of dignifying attention toward your neighbor, do you need to be more compassionate toward your neighbor or do you feel called to be more of an advocate for your neighbors?