

Jesus said.

Jesus Said: Part 3

Small Group Questions: Make a Difference

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Read

Luke 10:25–37; Romans 5:8 and 8:22; Mark 12:29–31; John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8; Colossians 1:13–14; Psalm 34:18 and 147:3; and Ephesians 5:1–2

Reflect

In Luke 10, Jesus is asked, “Who is my neighbor?” In response, he tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. A traveler on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho is robbed and left for dead. When the priest and Levite see the wounded traveler they cross to the other side of the road and go on their way, but the Samaritan stops to help. Who do you consider your “neighbor” to be? In this story, what is Jesus telling us about his heart?

Pastor Josh Walters helps us understand why we need to make a difference in the lives of others:

1. The world is broken because of sin.
 - a. When was the first time you were really struck by the brokenness in the world?
 - i. How close to home did it occur?
2. We are all created to make a difference.
 - a. Can someone love God and not love people? Why or why not?
 - b. Where are you making a difference: in the church, community, or world?
 - i. In what areas are you most comfortable serving? Which are more daunting...and why?
3. Difference-making is not automatic.
 - a. In the parable, which person would you have expected to get it right, and why?
 - i. What is the significance of the person who helped, being a Samaritan?
 - b. How can slowing down help you to be more conscious of those around you?

If I’m going to make a difference, I’ve got to:

1. Remember my condition.
 - a. Who do you best identify with in the story?
 - b. In what ways do you identify with each one: priest, Levite, Good Samaritan, and traveler?
 - c. What tends to stop you from engaging and getting involved when someone needs help?
 - d. What has God rescued you from? What do you need God to rescue you from today?
 - i. How willing are you to share your testimony to help others? Because of what you’ve experienced, how has it made you sensitive to others going through similar situations?
2. Walk toward the pain.
 - a. How willing are you to get close enough to someone to inflict pain in order to promote healing?
 - b. When God has pushed you outside your comfort zones, how has he taught you to trust him?
3. Anticipate interruptions.
 - a. How willing are you to be interrupted if you see someone in need of help?
 - b. Name someone who drops what they’re doing to be there for you? How does it affect you?
 - c. When have interruptions proved to be blessings?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?