

**Send Me - Part 1**  
**"Send me... to my Neighbor???"**  
**October 17th, 2021**

**Intro:**

**Welcome – one house, many rooms...love that we can be family! Blood buses at all locations – kicking off this new series called, “Send Me.”**

**- SOME FUN OR FUNNY OPENING STORY OR ILL OF "PICK ME!"**

- Can we be real though? We all want to be picked. We all love to feel wanted.**
- ? But what about when we really have a need – and someone shows up for us? They pick us to help. It feels so loving, right?**

**- Jesus is having a Dialogue w/ the most Righteous, Church Going, Religious Guys of the day...**

**Luke 10:25 "On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”**

**v. 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”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

**v. 28-29 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”**

- You know the Pharisee was ready w/ a monologue about all he had been doing for his "neighbors!"**
- Instead, Jesus breaks into story 1st!!!**

**v. 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.**

v. 31-32 "A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."

v. 33-34 "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 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."

v. 35 "The next day he took out two denarii 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.'

v. 36-37 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**- Right here, Jesus breaks the mold on what the Typical "Church Going" Person thinks about "Love!"**

**- MIP: If we only focus on the "Love God..." part, we are missing the other part of the equation!**

**- The longer we serve God, the more temptation we have to just think of ourselves and our own relationship with God. Yes, that's the first step, but there is more!**

**- And in a world that is getting busier & busier & more self-absorbed & self-consumed every day it's easy for us as Christ-followers to follow the world because it seems normal.**

**- BUT as Modern Day Followers of Jesus, we must be aware of this reality & work to Push Back against it!**

**- It's not enough to just Love God, we must Love Others as well!**

### **3 Thoughts from the Story:**

**1. The man SAW the Need.**

v. 33 "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him..."

**A. He didn't just pass by & look the other way.**

**B. We must understand that God's Heart is Moved by the Needs of the world around us.**

- He is ALWAYS moved w/ compassion!
- Jesus embodied Empathy & Compassion for the Hurting & Broken around him...

Luke 7:13 " And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." (ESV)

Matthew 15:32 "Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people..."

Matthew 9:36 " When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them..."

Matthew 20:34 " Jesus had compassion on them..."

Mark 6:34 " When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them..."

Mark 8:2 "I have compassion for these people..."

**C. The Danger: In our world today, our hearts become Numb or Calloused.**

- We have "Need" & "Pain" & "Trauma" Overload, so we either:
  - 1) Become Numb.
    - There's so much pain, I don't know what to do!
  - 2) Become Cynical.
    - We don't like seeing the pain so we blame some big, ambiguous "System" that then lets us off the hook!

#### **D. THIS STORY AS A MODERN DAY STORY ILL...**

- *Blame Gov't: "Well, somebody should have had better security on that road!"*
- *Blame Authorities: If the Police were doing their job!*
- *Blame Upbringing: His parents should have not let him be traveling alone.*
- *Blame the man: He should have pulled himself up by his bootstraps & gotten out of that bad neighborhood!*

**E. The Samaritan didn't "Blame" or "Become Numb," he SAW the need & let it sink in!**

**ILL: HOMELESS GUY LIVING IN THE MOVIE THEATER – the first step was to SEE him, not as an inconvenience, but as a person in need.**

#### **2. The man WENT where the Need was.**

**v. 33-34a "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him..."**

**A. He could have crossed over like the other 2 guys!**

- He could have been busy / in conversation / on his phone!
- But he wasn't!
- He went where the man was!

**B. In our world today, we have perfectly designed our lives to avoid the Needy or what we perceive to be needy neighbors in our Community.**

- But if we are going to "Live like Jesus wants us to Live," then we've got be intentional about "Getting out of our Comfort Zone" & seeing our community differently!

**C. The Power of our "Serve your City" projects! We want to GO to where the need is.**

- Nurses are hurting, let's go and love/pray in this season,
- Teachers are struggling let's go and create gift baskets to supply needs and encourage them, there are families who need fed?

- Let's go downtown & partner with St. Matthew's to feed families
  - The power of Missions Trips
- ILL: God has taught me so much – Being in an orphanage 2 years into our church plant (wept and asked God why I had been given so much) and those kids changed me forever.
- When we go to where the need is, it drives us out of Comfort Zones & grows our Heart of Compassion!!!

### 3. The man DID something about it.

v. 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."

v. 35 "The next day he took out two denarii 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.'

A. What was within his ability to do, he did.

- Much to his own Inconvenience!!!
- He stopped, he bandaged his wounds, he sacrificed his resources, he saw it through.

B. James the brother of Jesus, addressed this head on b/c people in the early church were thinking that all they had to do was "Just believe" & they were good!

James 2:14-15 "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food."

v. 16-17 "If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

**v. 18 "But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."**

**- What we DO is how we show our faith to the world around us!**

**- We are going to be a church that doesn't just exist for what God is doing IN HERE!!!**

**- We want our church to be a church that our community would miss if we were gone!!!**

**- Would the people in Gateway and Lehigh miss us if we were gone? Do they experience our love in action?**

**- Would the communities in Fort Myers feel the difference if we stopped serving? Do they feel our love in action?**

**- Would the teachers and nurses and those in need in Cape Coral feel a void if we stopped serving our city?**

**- This is why in the middle of Covid quarantine we were still trying to figure out how to serve. This is why we are not letting off the gas, not going to get complacent...we are going to be a church that LOVES God and LOVES others!**

**What about you? Would your co-workers and friends experience the difference if you stopped having your faith show the action of love and compassion?**

**- I believe that more and more every day in this season people are awakening to the reality that how they're living isn't working & they're going to be looking for something different!!! Looking for someone who lives different.**

**- Jesus is the DIFFERENT they're looking for!!!**

**- We will show the world that DIFFERENT by Serving and loving them!!!**

**Challenge: Jesus is the Solution to a Hurting & Broken world around us and we are his instruments that He wants to SEND – will you let God send you?**

**1. See.**

**2. Go.**

**3. Do.**

**GET THE BOOK IN THE FOYER TODAY!!!**

## **1. Collective Opportunities.**

- Blood Drive today, Opportunities at all locations on November 6<sup>th</sup> – groups will be getting creative together the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> and serving needs all week long as we Serve & Love our City!

## **2. Individual Opportunities.**

- If we will ask God to put people in our path that we can help, He will!
- I challenge you to pray, “God, give me eyes to see. Give me a heart of compassion. I will go and do whatever I can to show your love.”
- It's inconvenient, it's messy, it's Sacrificial, but it's SO WORTH IT!!!
- Jesus said it's how we inherit eternal life – love God and love others.

**SALVATION** - If you don't know Jesus, I want you to know that God sent His only son because He saw you (all of us, in need), he came to earth and was love in action... He was sent for YOU & your first step is to love God!

**PRAY**