

For the week of August 14, 2016
Pastor: Steve Zeisler

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Sixth week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 10:25-37

This message begins with the questions: what leads to eternal life? and who is my neighbor?, and ends with one of Jesus' most famous parables – the story of the Good Samaritan. We learn of our creator's purpose for us—we should love God wholly and love our neighbors as ourselves. The surprising compassion of the Samaritan traveler breaks down man-made barriers that separate people and points to Jesus' sacrificial rescue of wounded souls like us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Consider the biblical vision of human purpose. We have been created to love a holy God and to sacrificially love our neighbors. How does this calling compare to the familiar secular story that humans are valued only as victors in competition?
2. Why does Jesus first engage his questioner in legal terms, following up with a surprising story? What makes parables effective in helping us see new perspectives?
3. Put yourself in the place of the Priest and Levite. Would you have helped the man who had been beaten and robbed?
4. In your mind's eye can you see Jesus embracing you in a time of crisis; binding wounds and carrying you to safety?