

So far, we have talked about knowing and loving God, and knowing and loving ourselves. Remember, the theme for these lessons is the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22: 37-40)

Knowing and loving God means knowing and loving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That’s what we talked about in the first lesson. Then last week, we talked about knowing and loving ourselves. We are the Body of Christ – and each of us has something to contribute. Ex: Mr. Potato Head!

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, when Jesus gave the Great Commandment, the guy had asked him which commandment was greatest asked, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10: 29)

And Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. Could you tell that story?

*<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”*

*<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10: 25-37 NRSV)*

What would this look like in a modern setting? Ex: Youth Group and Bro. Bryan

Who we are in this story varies. Sometimes we are the Priest or Levite (highly religious folks who are in a hurry). Sometimes we are the one who has been beaten down and left in a ditch. Sometimes we are the Good Samaritan. The point of the whole story was summed up when

Jesus said, "Who proved to be a good neighbor to the man who was beaten up by the robbers?" And the lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

Who is my neighbor? The one who I see that needs my help. The word in the Bible for "neighbor" literally means, "the one who is near to you." Who would that include these days?

Practically speaking – how can I serve? Ex: Volunteer Sheets

3 Questions?

1. What am I passionate about?
2. What are my gifts?
3. How can I combine these two in a way that serves?

Let me tell you a story about how this worked out with a friend of mine named Jackie.

Jackie lives in a rural Alabama town, and is an active member of a local church. One year, she volunteered to go with some other church members to deliver Thanksgiving bags to some local residents. She saw some living conditions that broke her heart.

She started H.E.A.R.T.S. – Helping Every Area Resident to Succeed

**HEARTS** is a faith-based, charitable organization working in cooperation with area churches, volunteers, and businesses willing to give of their expertise, skills, and resources to help people with short term needs reach long term success.

- Clothing and Thrift Store
- Food Pantry
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Assistance to those battling cancer

Jackie is an example of someone who took their passion, their gifts, and used them both in service to meet the needs of her neighbors for the glory of God.