

A Lesson from Luke 10
June 11, 2020

GDC Friends,

This week the Thursday Bible Study was looking at Luke 10:25-37, the story of the Good Samaritan. It's a story about being a neighbor, even to those who are not part of our tribe or family. It's a story about finding grace from a stranger, even those of different races, religions, or sexualities. It's about seeing the pain in another, even if we have never personally felt the same pain.

When I opened my email after that bible study session, I had received the following post from the devotional folks at YouVersion Bible App. It took me by surprise that it, too, was about this much beloved story. So I share that email with you below.

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3 Ways to Show Love to a Hurting World

In Luke 10, Jesus tells the story of a Samaritan man who helps a wounded Jew. At this point in time, years of tension had led to a centuries-long conflict between Jews and Samaritans.

But instead of letting the Jew die on the side of the road, the Samaritan stopped what he was doing, noticed the man's pain, and went out of his way to help. The Samaritan showed compassion and empathy...when nobody else would.

Then, Jesus ends this parable by telling His followers, "You, go and do likewise."

In a world filled with conflict and hardship, how do we actively live out Jesus' words in a way that is helpful?

Here are 3 ways we can follow the Samaritan's example and love our neighbors:

Place Yourself in Someone's Pain

Sharing someone's pain allows us to taste what God did for us when He came as a human to endure the cross. When we choose to experience what someone else is going through, we can then show that person true compassion.

Sacrifice Your Plans and Position

The Samaritan invested his time, his money, and his resources into saving the hurting man, just as Jesus surrendered Himself so that we could have abundant life. Sacrificial love costs us something—but the return is healing and forgiveness.

Take Specific Action

The Samaritan showed the Jewish man that he cared by taking care of him. It was that decision that led to restoration. In the same way, we must be willing to repeatedly act in ways that demonstrate empathy, humility, and grace. Compassion, in order to be effective, has to lead to action.

So, who in your life is hurting? How can you step out of your comfort zone and into their pain? Your decision to do that might just lead to healing and restoration.

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There is so much pain and despair all around us. Often it feels like there is nothing we can do. So I also wanted to share some resources to help us all understand our siblings of color who are in pain on the side of the road right now. Learning more can help us see all of God's beloved children more compassionately.

Resources for the journey:

Books by Black authors can be found at:

<https://www.oprahmag.com/entertainment/books/g26187205/best-books-black-authors/?slide=11>

A few I recommend:

- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown

Ideas of things we can do right now for racial justice can be found at:

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

This site offers 75 suggestions.

I know we may not all be ready to jump into all of these resources but I wanted to offer some concrete steps we can take together. Just know that God loves you and so do I.

Grace and Peace -

PK (Pastor Karyn)