



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO STAND UP

21 FEBRUARY 2021

BIBLE READING LUKE 10:25-37

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

 ²⁵ An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to have eternal life?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?”

²⁷ The man replied, “The Scriptures say, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.’ They also say, ‘Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.’”

²⁸ Jesus said, “You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life.”

²⁹ But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, “Who are my neighbors?”

³⁰ Jesus replied: As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. ³² Later a temple helper^[a] came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side.

³³ A man from Samaria then came traveling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him ³⁴ and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine^[b] and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an

inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, “Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return.”

³⁶ Then Jesus asked, “Which one of these three people was a real neighbor to the man who was beaten up by robbers?”

³⁷ The teacher answered, “The one who showed pity.”

Jesus said, “Go and do the same!”

BACKGROUND

Four police officers (Derek Chauvin, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao) were charged for the death of George Floyd.

I want us to focus on Derek Chauvin and Tou Thao.

What Derek Chauvin did?

Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into George Floyd’s neck while Floyd was lying on the street.

- How do you think Derek saw George Floyd?

What Tou Tha did?

Tou Thao stood near the other officers as they restrained George Floyd.

Mr Thao was charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

- How do you think Tou Thao saw George Floyd?

LET'S REFLECT TOGETHER...

As human beings we often gravitate towards ways of thinking and behaving based on “in” and “out” groups: or “us” and “them”.

This is a natural human tendency. However, it is something which Jesus calls us to acknowledge, face and move beyond.

If you are challenged by this, firstly, take heart in knowing that the intent in Jesus' challenge is not to create guilt and condemnation.

As we honestly face our own biases and blind spots, Jesus lovingly invites us into abundant life.

To be free to love in spite of any differences is to reflect the heart and nature of Jesus.

It is freedom from the fear which drives the need to exclude those who seem different.

With this in mind, reflect on these questions:

- Which neighbour do you need to see?
- Which neighbour do you need to love?
- Which neighbour do you need to be on the same road to walk with by giving your hand, your time, your resources, and your heart?

Thank God for his unending love for us.

LET'S FURTHER REFLECT TOGETHER...

Can you think of a time when you saw someone else's need and you either stepped out of your comfort zone to meet that need, or you played it cautious and held back?

- How did you feel before and after either response?
- What are some of the reasons we can give for not stopping to help people ...

