

## Dwelling With Your Neighbor

Sermon by John Strommen on Luke 10:1-12 Feb. 26, 2017

1. Welcome: Today we're going to do a little interaction during the sermon. No reason to be scared, it's called dwelling in the Word, a faith practice like the ones we talked about.

If it feels disruptive and maybe makes you a bit uncomfortable, that's OK. That's what the Word of God does. If the word never disrupts your life or makes you uncomfortable, it's not the Word.

2. Instruct about the reading: As \_\_\_\_\_ reads, I want you to listen carefully for what engages your imagination, what "pops," what puzzles you so that you have a question that you'd love to ask a biblical scholar. After \_\_\_\_\_ finishes, I will ask you to pair up with a neighbor and tell your neighbor what you heard.
3. READ Luke 10...
4. OK, find a reasonably friendly looking stranger or someone you don't know well, and pair up... The point of this is not to see who has the right answer but to pay attention to what you heard when you dwelled in God's Word for a few minutes.
5. DWELL...
6. Ok, who wants to share what your partner said (assuming it's OK with your partner!)

Feel free to share what you said if you want...

7. My response anticipating the negatives:
  - Is it **rude to move on** if you offer "peace" and someone doesn't receive you? Might be more rude to stay.
  - **Shaking dust off** one's feet is an ancient way of declaring yourself free of the negative energy of that town. Perhaps, don't carry a grudge? At any rate, let it go!
  - **Saying nothing on the road** could be singularity of purpose, staying focused.
  - **No provisions?** No cell phone? They are being asked to trust, aren't they?
  - Judgment means there are consequences to one's actions. If a town fails to show hospitality to a stranger – a **cardinal sin in that culture**, they have chosen a path that does not give life because it's cut off.
  - But in this passage, failure to show hospitality is even more significant. It is a **failure to receive the kingdom of God**, here's what that means: the kingdom is God's hope and intention for us, where people **love** their neighbors:
    - i. practice **forgiveness** because God forgave them,
    - ii. where there is **peace** not only the absence of violence but **wholeness**, where each person and a group of people is **healthy**, where there is healing and restoration.
    - iii. Where each person **has enough** to live,
    - iv. where people **celebrate community, life and a gracious God**;

- **God's promised future for us, embodied in Jesus, and because we are the body of Christ now**, it is something we can participate in now by the power of the Holy Spirit,
- If someone **turns their back on this kingdom** which is life as God intended it, THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES. They have chosen a slow death.

8. My response constructive:

- **What is their focus, their objective, their mission?** To bear witness to this kingdom of life, and not just talk about it but to participate in it with their neighbor!
- **How do they bear witness?** TO FIND HOSPITALITY AND A PARTNERSHIP.
- So they go out and are pretty **vulnerable**. They don't know where they're going to stay, they have no provisions, they are lambs among wolves. **Why would they go?** What possessed them, do you think?
- **They trusted God.** God was already at work out there, the harvest is plentiful! So they are asked to trust in God's hospitality through the neighbor.
- **Stay where you are...**it's about the RELATIONSHIP, not how many flyers you distribute!
- Eat is fellowship, cure is love them in all their needs, declare the kingdom is what God is up to in all this.

9. My response to the paradigm shift here:

- **What does this all mean for us? Everything!** Mission is different now. it's more like it was in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine. You couldn't expect anyone to just show up. Mission is less about what we do here, attracting people here, but instead it's being attracted to our neighbors.
- And when we get out in the neighborhood it's not about encountering our neighbor with an agenda, or a flyer, but instead **looking for people of peace**. What would it sound like for you to say, "peace to this house"?
- And that means **listening, dwelling, being dependent upon their hospitality**. You can't love someone unless you listen to them. You can't have any answers for them unless you know the question. What is their story?
- **What does it look like** to believe that God is already out there, at work, and we need to discover God out in the world and partner with God? Which neighbors? Businesses? Non-profits? What common work or project might you find?

10. Pair up again and share what you see looking ahead. Who might you/we say "Peace" to? Write it down and post it.