

DO LIKEWISE | 9-4-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

In the Gospels, Jesus clearly models for us the importance of loving our neighbors. He didn't just challenge us to do it, He showed us how. What is one of your favorite stories about Jesus caring for someone? Do you think Jesus ever got exhausted while serving, loving, healing, restoring, and challenging people? Did He have boundaries? How do you know when you've gone too far trying to help someone? How do you know when you haven't gone far enough? What are some ways we can journey with others over time?

READ: *Luke 10:33-35*

In this part of the parable, we see how the Samaritan went out of his way to neighbor the beat up man. He specifically shows four ways to neighbor. Let's look at each of these and discover what we can learn from them:

1. **Ownership:** *"Then he put the man on his own donkey..." -v. 34.* Why is it significant that the Samaritan put the beat up man on his own donkey? Is it easy or hard for you to let people borrow your stuff? How does offering ourselves and our stuff show people the generosity God has shown us?
2. **Time:** *"...brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day..." -v. 34-35.* Don't you think bandaging this man's wounds is enough? Why is it significant that the Samaritan took the beat up man to an inn, cared for him, and stayed with him overnight to make sure he was okay? Has someone ever gone over and above to help you like this? How can you be ready to help others in the same way?
3. **Healthy Boundaries:** *"The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said..." -v. 35.* How is the Samaritan creating a healthy boundary by going away? What happens when we want to help people more than they want to be helped? What happens when we set up healthy boundaries? What happens when we don't?
4. **Commitment:** *"...and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." -v. 35.* Why is it important for people to see we are committed to them over time? What happens if we only help people in moments of need but don't follow through with them?

READ: *Luke 10:36-37*

Why are acts of mercy more powerful than words without action? How has the Samaritan inspired you to be a better neighbor?

CHALLENGE

In v. 37 of this parable, Jesus says to go & neighbor like the Samaritan. What are you going to go & do likewise?

PRAYER

"Jesus, help me to take ownership, invest time, create healthy boundaries, and be committed to my neighbors."