

“Where Am I In The Story?”

Take a few moments to reflect on the 5 main characters of the Good Samaritan passage below. Think about the times in your life where you could connect with each based on the prompts given. Spend some time ranking them from the one you can identify with “Most Often” all the way down to “Least Often”.

The Wounded

“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho...”

When have we... Have we ever...

- Been in the wrong place at the wrong time?
 - Felt left by the side of the road?
- Been completely reliant upon the help of those around us?
- Been victimized by those we knew, or those we didn't?

The Robbers

“...he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.”

When have we... Have we ever...

- Knowingly or unknowingly victimized someone else?
 - Pursued revenge or attempted to “get even”?
- Hurt someone deeply and then walked away from the situation?

The Priest...and the Levite

“A priest happened to be going down the same road...so too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”

When have we... Have we ever...

- Ignored a call for help that we had the tools and abilities to assist with?
 - Put personal safety or obligations above our neighbor's need?
 - Decided that decorum was more important than empathy?

The Good Samaritan

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.”

When have we... Have we ever...

- Stopped when it wasn't convenient to help someone?
- Broken social norms because it was the right thing to do?
- Been more concerned about the welfare of others than ourselves?

The Innkeeper

“...The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

When have we... Have we ever...

- Unexpectedly gone from a passive bystander to a lead role in providing help?
 - Assumed a leadership role we didn't feel prepared for?
- Been asked to step outside of our normal day-to-day to provide on-going assistance?

“Lifting Our Neighbors In Prayer”

We invite you to also consider a time of prayer this morning: prayer for yourself, friends and family, and the community and world. There are a couple of different prayer types for you to consider walking through this morning, perhaps making a list of items that would fall into each category. One of our opportunities this morning is exploring 5 different prayer types, and we invite you to do the same:

- **Prayers of Praise (Blue)** — Lifting events in your life, in the life of friends or family, or in the community or world up to God in celebration.
- **Prayers of Lament (Green)** — Naming and crying out to God those areas of pain or grief we feel when loss happens.
- **Prayers of Healing (White)** — For ourselves, family members, or for our communities.
- **Prayers for Guidance (Red)** — As we walk difficult decisions, or for our leaders throughout the world, prayers for God’s guidance and wisdom.
- **Prayers for Specific Events (Purple)** — Lifting specific events or circumstances in our world to God.

“What Is Justice?”

Another one of our opportunities is exploring the concept of “Justice”—what is it? How do we pursue it? What are we called to?

Spend a moment answering the question: “What is Justice?” What images come to mind, and what are the words associated with it?

Next, click on this link to watch a video from The Bible Project:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/justice/>

Finally, reflect on the quote from the video: “If God declares *us* righteous, the only response is to seek justice and righteousness for others.” How does that change our narrative and view of justice? How does the concept of “Transformative Justice” come into play?