

Living the Word

A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

Session 11

Luke 5:25-37

“Who is my neighbor?”



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

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OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. (Prayer for the New Evangelization-USCCB)

OPENING PSALM

(one person take line 1 and one person take line 2)

Psalm 33

The Greatness and Goodness of God

Group 1 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Group 2 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

Group 1 He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

Group 2 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

Group 1 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

Group 2 The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned, he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>

Stop at 7:00 minute mark

THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

“Take care of him”

Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.^[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii,^[b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

REFLECTION

Which of the three was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy?" Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Here Jesus offers me no alternative. He makes it crystal clear. Do I see or not see - the victims? Do I see or not see - the poor, robbed, and beaten and left lying half - naked on the side of the road? Am I moved with or do I not care? Do I stop and help or am I like the two of three indifferent and indignant who pass by too busy, too disgusted, too afraid, too self-occupied with problems of their own? Or do I go and do likewise as Jesus says? Am I the Good Samaritan?

Jesus does and is. He sees, is moved with compassion, and stops and helps. At Nain once, the dead son of a widowed mother was being carried out. "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' ... He stepped forward and touched the coffin. ... And he said, 'Young man, I say to you arise.' ... And he gave him to his mother." Jesus sees, is moved with compassion, stops and helps. Am I like Jesus?

In the figure of the Good Shepherd set before us, we are taught that "it is necessary to convert the gaze of the heart because often the viewer does not see. Because? Because compassion is lacking. Without compassion, the beholder does not become involved with what he observes and passes beyond. Instead, those with a compassionate heart are touched and involved and stop and take care of them." (Pope Francis)

Lord, give me a heart that sees. Give me a compassionate heart. Help me be neighbor to the one in need. Help me go out of my way to help those hurting on their way. After all, you give us the Good Samaritan parable in answer to the all-important question, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Help me understand that really there is no alternative. The inheritance is eternal life - or not, heaven or hell. Am I like you or not? Am I the Good Samaritan or not?

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

Second Joyful mystery – Visitation, Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In what ways does your parish accompany family, friends, and community members less fortunate?

Are there opportunities to create a ministry to help those in need?

CALL TO ACTION

Discipleship involves helping people enter into a personal encounter with Christ through prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, and works of mercy.

CLOSING PRAYER

Going Forth As Disciples Diocesan Prayer

Jesus, you send your disciples on mission to make God's love and mercy known. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we go forth as your missionary disciples, reflecting God's love in the world and speaking the name of Jesus to others. May the Going Forth As Disciples ministry bear fruit in our community and parish as it prepares us to accompany others toward You and Your Church. Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.