

Go and do likewise

Isaiah 61: 1 – 3 (What good news looks like), Luke 10: 25 – 37 (Who is my neighbour?)

Feb 19, 2017

Early word:

Go over the story of the Good Samaritan."

The Good Samaritan



What did the Samaritan share?
Do you ever share?



Sharing – seeing someone's need and offering to share

Jesus loves everyone and smiles when he sees us share with others, not just our friends.



Sermon – Go and do likewise

You would expect a lawyer to check the fine print, wouldn't you?

- So when Jesus affirms his coupling of two parts of the Torah: Duet 6: 5 the Shema, the Jewish confession of faith and Leviticus 19: 18 from the laws of Moses:
Duet 6:5 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"
Lev 19:18 "Love your neighbour as yourself"
Do this and you will live, says Jesus
- But not content with one pat on the back, the Lawyer asks: 'And who is my neighbour?'

And so we get the parable of the Good Samaritan. You know it well.

What elements would you expect me to highlight from the story?

- Foolishness
- Priest passes
- Levite passes
- Jews and Samaritans – half breeds, ethnically and spiritually
- Donkey
- Inn – coins
- Ongoing care

I want to make 3 strong points:

1. When he saw him (v33)
2. He took pity on him (v33)
3. He took care of him (v34)

Before you can be a neighbour you need to see the person. Have your antenna out for others.

1 - He saw him

Not so preoccupied with yourself that others are invisible. Not so prejudiced to be blind to the person. This is an orientation toward others. As Christian, we are sent, as Isaiah said, preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, free the captives, comfort those who mourn.

I wonder if there are any whom we overlook?

The Samaritan saw him and then – he took pity on him

2 - He took pity on him

One of Uniting's values is compassion. One of the Synod mission principles is to: "Respond in compassion to human need"

Uniting Values

Compassionate	We are nurturing, generous and thoughtful in our words and deeds.
Respectful	We act with honesty and integrity, and open our hearts to all people without exception.
Bold	We face injustice head on and stand up for what is right and true with confidence and strength
Imaginative	We challenge convention, explore new possibilities and dare to dream for a better future.

In her song, Hosanna, Brooke Fraser sings to God, "Break my heart for what breaks yours ..."

If our hearts resonate with God's we will respond with compassion to need, regardless of race, colour, religion, age, or social standing.

This is based on us seeing everyone in the image of God, seeing ourselves as forgiven, recipients of God's grace, so how can we discount others when we have been given so much?

We love, because God first loved us - 1 John 4:19. usually said Baptisms.

So he saw, he took pity and he took care.

3 - He took care

And great support it was too, first aid, hospital, and then paid for any rehab! The full service, and not a Medicare reimbursement in sight.

And for those over achievers amongst us, see how he partnered with the inn keeper, allowed others to take their role in the Jew's recovery.

So what about us? Do we see the need around us?

As I have said before, it was great to see us respond to the need of people on Christmas Day with the Dinner, the music group that needed a venue, goats in Africa, Dinner at Darrens continues, HICCI.

And that would not be the half of it. Neighbours next door, in other towns and across the world.

Uniting's purpose is to inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice. It is our Church's response to seeing, having compassion and responding. It was born out of Christians over the last 100 years responding to the needs in the community around them.

It was scores of parish missions and agencies of our congregations and founding denominations.

And now the Synod has brought all Victoria and Tasmania's community services together as one.

This will enable more sharing of services, greater specialisation and give the Church, government and community one organisation to relate too.

The trick is to keep it local, but to share all the complex back office services.

And for the Uniting Church, we need to see it as reflecting Christ, as loving our neighbour with integrity.

And my colleagues at Uniting need to understand, that of faith or not, they are part of the Church and God's mission with those on the edge.

That is my main role - To keep Uniting as an integral part of the Church's mission.

So I will be encouraging congregations to continue to support Share, to volunteer with the groups around them, to pray for and support the community services of the Church, now all under Uniting.

I will be educating Uniting staff in the ethos of the Uniting Church, helping my colleagues to reflect how we expect them to honour Uniting's founding statement: "Christ invites us to serve humanity by creating an inclusive, connected and just world."

By inspiring people, enlivening communities and confronting injustice.

I will be helping staff to cope with the stress of giving out so much, with the self emptying that service often requires.

We will be helping the church and congregations respond to the need around them, create new ways of supporting their neighbour.

So people will be supported, communities will be brought to life. And the question may be asked of us, "Why do you do this?"

Prisoners' realisation that these men gave up their holidays to be with them. It just blew their mind.

If we love God and love our neighbour, Both will shine out like beacons of light.

What did Jesus say to the Lawyer at the end of their conversation?

"Go and do likewise."



Do we?

Rev. John Clarke
Director of Mission