PARABLES

Go Deeper

WEEK TEN: THE NEIGHBOR YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE

Hear the story. See the King. Answer the call. Luke 10:25-37

1. The expert wanted to justify himself. Where are you most tempted to measure yourself by what you've done instead of admitting your need for the mercy of Jesus?
2. The priest and Levite saw the wounded man... and kept walking. Whose need have you noticed, but become comfortable walking past?
3. The Samaritan's mercy cost him something. What usually keeps you from moving toward someone in need: time, comfort, money, inconvenience, fear, or simply not wanting to be bothered?
4. Jesus changed the question from "Who is my neighbor?" to "Will you become a neighbor?" Who is already in front of you that God may be calling you to love with practical mercy?

WEEKLY CALL

Meet a concrete need that costs you something.
People who have received mercy ought to become people who give mercy.

Signup To Receive Questions via Text or Email @

www.1stFreeWillBaptist.Church/Go-Deeper-Signup

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK TEN: THE NEIGHBOR YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE

Luke 10:25-37

Whose suffering have you learned to walk around?

OPENING REFLECTION

Before you begin, take a moment to consider: Whose suffering have you learned to walk around? This prayer guide will help you process what it means to move toward others with mercy, just as Jesus moved toward us.

SECTION 1: ADORATION – RECOGNIZING GOD'S CHARACTER

Scripture Meditation

- Luke 10:33-34 - "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine."
- Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Guided Prayer Template

Begin by praising God for His merciful character:

"Father, I come before You in awe of Your mercy. Just as the Samaritan moved toward the wounded man with compassion, You moved toward me in my brokenness. You didn't walk around my sin - You walked toward me with love. Help me see Your heart reflected in this story of mercy and grace."

Adoration Prompts

- How has God shown mercy to you when you didn't deserve it?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus "moved toward us" rather than away from us?
- Spend a moment praising God for His character as merciful, compassionate, and loving.

PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 2: CONFESSION – EXAMINING OUR HEARTS

Scripture Meditation

- Luke 10:31-32 - "A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."
- 1 John 1:8-9 - "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Guided Prayer Template

Take time to honestly examine areas where you've "walked around" needs:

"Lord, I confess that I have seen suffering and kept walking. I've noticed needs but rationalized why they weren't my responsibility. I've felt compassion but chosen my comfort instead. Forgive me for the times I've been more like the priest and Levite than the Samaritan. Help me see these patterns and turn from them."

Confession Prompts

- Specific situations: Name one or two times recently when you noticed someone in need but didn't respond. What held you back?
- Root motivations: What fears or excuses do you most commonly use?
    - "I don't have time"
    - "Someone else will help"
    - "It's too complicated"
    - "I can't fix everything"
- Self-justification: How do you rationalize walking around needs?
- Confession statement: "I confess that I have _____ when I should have _____."

SECTION 3: THANKSGIVING – CELEBRATING GOD'S PROVISION

Scripture Meditation

- Luke 10:36-37 - "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'"
- Philippians 2:1 - "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion..."

Guided Prayer Template

Express gratitude for how God has positioned you to be His instrument of mercy:

"Thank You, Father, for the privilege of being a follower of Jesus. Thank You that I don't have to earn Your love through perfect obedience. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who empowers me to move toward others with genuine mercy. Thank You for putting specific people in my life and path - people I can serve and love."

Thanksgiving Prompts

- Thank God for one person who showed you mercy when you needed it.
- Thank God for the Holy Spirit's power to change your heart and actions.
- Thank God for giving you the resources (time, money, abilities) to help others.
- Thank God for the specific people He has placed in your life and community.

PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 4: SUPPLICATION – REQUESTING GOD'S HELP

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 9:36-38 - "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"
- Proverbs 3:27-28 - "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow' - when you now have it with you."

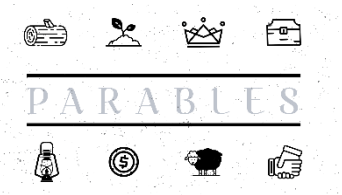
Guided Prayer Template

Ask God to transform your heart and guide your actions:

"Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see the needs around me. Give me a heart that moves toward suffering instead of away from it. Grant me wisdom to know when and how to help. Remove my excuses and my fear. Make me willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of showing mercy. Help me become the kind of person who doesn't just feel compassion - but acts on it."

Supplication Prompts

- For spiritual transformation: Ask God to reshape your priorities and values.
  - "Give me a heart like the Samaritan's - a heart that sees and responds."
  - "Remove my tendency to justify myself and my inaction."
- For specific people: Identify someone you know is hurting.
  - Name: _____
  - Their need: _____
  - How you might help: _____
  - "Lord, give me courage to reach out to _____ this week."
- For wisdom and discernment: Ask God to guide your choices.
  - "Show me which needs You want me to address."
  - "Give me wisdom to balance my own responsibilities with serving others."
  - "Help me know when to say yes and when to say no."
- For the church: Pray for your church community.
  - "Make us a people who move toward the hurting, not away from them."
  - "Help us see the lonely, the struggling, the forgotten in our community."



PRAYER GUIDE

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the mercy You've shown me in Jesus Christ. Thank You that I don't have to justify myself or earn Your love. Forgive me for the times I've seen need and kept moving. Give me a heart that breaks for what breaks Yours. Open my eyes to the people in front of me. By Your Holy Spirit, give me the courage and compassion to move toward them with mercy - not because I'm trying to prove something, but because I've been overwhelmed by Your grace.

Help me to not just feel compassion - but someone who acts on it. This week, help me meet a concrete need that costs me something. And through that obedience, help others see Jesus.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, my Savior and King... Amen.

JOURNALING PROMPTS

Spend 2-3 minutes reflecting on these questions in a journal:

1. "Whose suffering have I learned to walk around?" Write about a specific situation where you've noticed need but kept walking. What would it look like to move toward that need instead?
2. "What does mercy cost?" Reflect on the Samaritan's actions - he gave time, resources, money, and convenience. What would it cost you to show similar mercy to someone in your life?
3. "How has Jesus shown me mercy?" Write about a time when someone moved toward you in compassion when you needed it. How can you extend that same mercy to others?
4. "What am I afraid of?" If you find yourself hesitant to help, write about what fears or concerns are holding you back. How might faith address these fears?
5. "Who is my neighbor?" Instead of asking who you're NOT responsible for, ask: "Who in my sphere of influence is hurting and needs me to move toward them?"

PARABLES

PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S "CALL"

"This week, I will meet a concrete need that costs me something."

Write your specific action:

- What need will you address? _____
- How will it cost you (time, money, comfort, etc.)? _____
- When will you do this? _____
- Who might you invite to join you? _____

Remember: "Go and do likewise." - Luke 10:37

HEAR THE STORY.

SEE THE KING.

ANSWER THE CALL.