

Love Your Neighbor

A teacher of the law asked Jesus, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”** (Matthew 22:36-39).

The homeless, downtrodden, broken, and poor have always been very close to the heart of Jesus. His concern for anyone in need was evident in his everyday ministry—healing the broken, touching the leper, receiving those who’d been marginalized and forgotten—and in his teachings.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:24-37), Jesus tells of a man who had been robbed, beaten, and left for dead by the side of the road. Two passersby quite literally cross the road to avoid coming into contact with the injured ‘neighbor.’ But then a third man, one whom we’ve come to know as *The Good Samaritan*, came to his aid.

There are many lessons for us to learn in this passage—chief among them is *what loving a neighbor in need looks like.*

Just as *LOVE* reached out to help a stranger in need and stood against the injustice it witnessed, we have an opportunity to *LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS* here in the Heartland. Those facing homelessness and hunger in our community are very much like the injured man in this parable. So many in their experience have crossed the street and averted their eyes to the need.

Imagine the impact on our community if we all committed to *LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR!*

Each night, there are thousands of our neighbors in the Heartland sleeping outside. They have no home. No food. No hope.

And there are countless individuals and families on the brink, needing preventative resources to empower them to remain in their homes.

WE can share the love of Christ with them, extend compassion and offer a helping hand . . . together!

Will YOU Love Your Neighbor?