

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK WEEK OF JULY 11, 2022

Partners in Ministry: Show Mercy

Written by Trudy Hanson

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

**An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 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." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." Luke 10:25-28**

Our verses today is all about what we are being asked to do to inherit eternal life. God is telling us if you do this you will live. But some days are hard to love our neighbors, it is hard to think beyond ourselves. And there are days we think back and know we, DID NOT, earn eternal life. Have you ever had a moment in your life that you wish you could take back or just be able to do it or say it differently? I'm sad to say I have had a few of those moments in my life. One really sticks out. I was at the gate waiting to board, everyone was standing in their designated lane and number in line. There were 3 ladies that obviously had not flown on this airline before because they kept going up to the gate asking, are we boarding now? The response was, No you are in C, we are boarding A. When it was time for B to board I was standing in line in my designated place when they ran up again asking if it was time for them to board. I don't know why, I just said, no you are C this is B. and they sat back down as confused as ever...I never saw them again but I think about that moment everyday....WHY, WHY, WHY...had I not taken a moment to show them how the process worked, looked at their ticket and told them what sign to look at and when it says C, show them where to stand. To this day I wish I could take that moment back. But it was a

really big lesson. The verse, , **"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."** I can't take that moment back but it is embedded in my mind and one of the biggest life lessons for me. I know that I will never pass up the opportunity again to love my neighbor. Prayer: Dear God, There are those moments we forget, please continue to remind us to follow your commandment to Love our neighbor and to be there for them. Amen

Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

**But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 25: 2-37** Many years ago Tim and I lived these verses. At the time we didn't relate it to the Bible we just did it. Our oldest granddaughter wasn't even 1 yet and our son

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needed us to come to New York to spend a couple nights with he and our granddaughter. So we packed our bags and went to the airport to fly up for the weekend. As we sat at the gate waiting for our plane to leave the announcement came...due to weather our flight had been cancelled and we were all put on the next morning's flight. As we gathered our bags and were about to trudge back to the car and take the hour+ ride home only to come back the next morning we saw an elderly woman sitting alone in one of the seats. Tim and I looked at each other and both of us couldn't leave her there. We went over to her and asked if she had a place to go, she said, no, I'll just sit here. We stood there and decided right then we couldn't let her sit there all night and asked if she would come home with us, she could call her family when we got there (this was before the great invention of cell phones) and let them know she was ok. She said, OK... I can't imagine what was going through her mind as we drove for over an hour through Atlanta, farther and farther out of town, onto 2 lane roads dense with trees and then into the driveway of a big dark house. As soon as we got inside we gave her the phone and we could hear someone say, YOU WHAT????? She gave Tim the phone and he immediately calmed their fears, gave them all our information and assured them we would be with her when she got off the plane at our destination. When we arrived her whole family was there so excited to see her. They all came over to us and thanked us. We never saw or talked to her again but for years after that she sent us a box of fruit from Florida every Christmas. We never saw ourselves as good Samaritans, we saw it as the right thing to do, as something we were being drawn to do because it was the right thing to do. In our verse today it says: <sup>37</sup> **He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."** God is telling us

to show mercy to others, to help those in need and be good Samaritans to all those that need you. Prayer: Heavenly Father, we have crazy lives that distract us from others that need us the most. Continue to remind us to be good Samaritans to those we come in contact with each day. Amen

Partners in Ministry: Listen & Learn

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

**July 13, 2022**

"He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." (Genesis 18:3-5) As partners in ministry it is important that we be good hosts! Members need to be good hosts to visitors and staff. Staff need to be good hosts to members and visitors! Hospitality is an important part of our call to serve our neighbor. And doing so with a good attitude can go a long way. This hospitality does not need to cost a lot or be some grand gesture, it can be something as simple as seeing someone thirsty and asking if they would like a bottle of water. The simple stuff, the seemingly small stuff, is a vital part of our ministry to be good hosts and to love our neighbors. When we all focus on the things our neighbor needs, we all succeed and grow together. Prayer. "Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the wonderful guests that occupy even the smallest amount of time in our lives. We pray for the courage and strength to keep being good and loving neighbors to our guests wherever we may find them. Amen."

**July 14, 2022**

"And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three

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measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.” (Genesis 18:6-8) It is true that all have a place at God’s table. What is also true is that there is something that everyone can do to help serve at that table. Abraham did not do a lot of the work to be a good host but he definitely helped manage and organize. You may not be the star chef who is the center of attention at an event but you matter and the effort that you put into being partners with others through Christ is appreciated. Take for instance the co-op, everyone who is a part of that process is vital for it, the people who donate food, the shelvers, the shoppers, marketing, gardeners, etc. They all take part in the same meal for others. Find where you can be partners with others in ministry! Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the opportunity to help others in this world. When you bestow blessings on us, give us the wisdom to let those blessings flow to others in any way that we can. Amen.”

**July 15, 2022**

“They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.” (Genesis 18:9-10) The golden rule is “to do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. While an excellent humanist example of “love thy neighbor as I have loved you”, it certainly gets the same point across. The maxim, while certainly intended to help curtail negative behavior by the individual, is also a promise. When we bless others as God’s work through us, we allow ourselves to be recipients of that same

blessing. Just as the strangers said a blessing on Abraham, others will bless you as well. God works through each of us as He works through Christ. The point is not to do good things so that you will receive good things but instead because you receive so much from God and will continue to; share those blessings with one another. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the opportunity to share our blessings with one another. We pray that we will continue to receive the amazing blessings that you have given to us. Amen.”

**July 16, 2022**

“O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;” (Psalm 15:1-3) It should be of no surprise that the great commandment that Christ sent us in to the world with, that we should love our neighbor as Christ has loved us, was already being communicated to us by God even in the Psalms. The most that we sin as people is when we interact with each other. We are destined to be sinful creatures, but if we wanted to respect God and make every attempt possible to be the most sinless we could be, we would start by taking care of our neighbors. To be partners in ministry. For the baptized, the called and named children of God, we should commit to receive that blessing and let it flow to others so that the Kingdom of God can be present in our lives. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for welcoming us to your Kingdom through Christ Jesus. We pray for the strength to carry that blessing to one another to better act in accordance with your word. Amen.”

**July 17, 2022**

“But Martha was distracted by her many

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tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:40-42) The lesson of Mary and Martha is deeper than it looks at first glance. Many themes and ideas can be pulled from this interaction but I want you to think about Martha. How many times have you been Martha? Working to be a good host, out of obligation and love, but becoming cold and hard at the judgment of our work to others. Why are they not doing as much as me? Why am I volunteering more? This jealousy is not what is important. Doing what we can, freely and without need for reward, is what matters. Not doing “enough”. Not doing what is owed. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we pray for the resolution of the judgments we have for others; the criticisms that we lay on one another. We pray for the willpower to overcome those faults and to try and think of the love you have for others in the way that we look at others. Amen.”