



GIVING STORIES

IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

INTRO: Many parables about compassion and generosity are found only in Luke, like the parable of the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son. Yet these stories also highlight that human nature tends to be self-centered and self-justified, even within the church. Our text today compels us to ask: Have we become more generous people as a result of receiving God's love, or are we still waiting to be transformed? What's holding us back from greater participation in God's story?

1. Describe a time when compassion or generosity made a difference in your life.

READ Luke 10:30–37

1. What might have prevented the priest and the Levite from helping the beaten man?
2. What caused the Samaritan to stop?
3. What's the relationship between compassion and convenience?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Describe a time when you “passed by on the other side.” In other words, when were you hesitant to show someone compassion?
2. Does compassion require vulnerability? Explain.
3. How is generosity counter-cultural?
4. What's your “I will” statement this week? (How will you practice compassion/generosity?)

OUTRO: When the lawyer asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?,” Jesus could have replied with a simple answer: “Everyone is your neighbor.” Instead, Jesus tells a story that questions not only our prejudices and fears, but also the authenticity of our love. When our private interests operate at the expense of community, justice and mercy suffer, and so do our neighbors. “The neighbor is not a person in need but a person in relationship with another (Luke 10:36)—in other words, me in the mirror. Every fellow human is made in God's image and looking back at me with identical needs, feelings, hopes, desires and rights.” (from the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*)

PRAY TOGETHER.

(Pray for God to open your heart this week and help someone in need.)