

PRESCRIPTION NO. 3 - BE PURPOSEFUL

- **Way of the Week No. 19 – Accept & Don't Cast Stones**

God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

- **Pray Together**

Share requests with one another and spend time in prayer, bringing your joys, pains, strengths and weaknesses before God. Commit to supporting one another in prayer throughout the week.

- **Read: Luke 10:25-37**

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ 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.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- **Discussion**

1. Have you ever thought about your life's purpose? If so, what is it?
2. Mazz and Trzeciak define purpose as "taking the responsibility of serving others, to do what we can for each other." Do you agree with this definition, why or why not?
3. What does the Word of God tell us about purpose?

Break into smaller groups (breakout rooms if utilizing Zoom) for about 10-15 minutes, reflect on the following passages as they relate to purpose, discuss as a group. When you come back together discuss with the larger group your observations for 10-15 minutes.

Luke 22: 41-42	Colossians 3:1-3	Psalm 138	Matthew 15:13-16
Ephesians 2:1-10	Matthew 16:24-28	Acts 20:25-35	Matthew 28:16-20

4. In *Wonder Drug*, authors Trzeciak and Mazzarelli share case study based on the familiar teaching of Jesus, the parable of the Good Samaritan. The authors write, "The researchers found that the main predictor of providing help was whether or not people thought they were in a hurry. In fact, some of them literally stepped over the victim in their rush. Sixty-three percent of the seminarians who were

not in a hurry stopped and gave meaningful help; only 10 percent of those racing to get to their appointment did” (p. 219). If you recall, these seminarians read the parable together and then were told to go to a different location (one that was hard to reach in a timely manner) to share what they learned about the parable. So focused on the task at hand 37% of the seminarians did nothing. That is a sad statistic. What can we learn from this parable and the research study and how can we apply it to our daily life as we seek to become people who “Live to Give?”

5. Reflect on your past week. Where did you have opportunities to “Live to Give?” How did you make the most of those opportunities? (It can really be as simple as being intentional about smiling or saying “hello” to people). How can you make the most of the opportunities to be purposeful and serve others this coming week? What in your life needs to change – Jesus says, “ask and you will receive.” Go to the Lord in prayer and ask for help!

Close in Prayer