



Dear Crossroads Family,

A message preached at the 2010 Together for the Gospel Conference pointed out something about the NFL all-star teams (back when they actually played a game). The best players from the league are chosen, and they are appointed to their respective division's teams. Each player on the team from their division wears the same-colored jersey. So, the NFC has on, say, blue, and the AFC has on white. But it's striking that though they all wear the same jersey, they don't really play for that team. They all have different helmets. They wear the helmets of the team they really play for, the folks who pay them the big contract. So, when they come to the all-star game, they don't really hit hard or run hard. They play gingerly because they don't want to "mess up my contract." They really play for the team they came from. For this reason, the game is no longer played as it once was.

If we aren't careful, Christians can do the same thing. We may wear our jerseys that have "sinner in need of God's grace" on them, but we may also be wearing a different helmet; that is, there may be something that really defines us more than this most basic acknowledgement of our faith--something that makes us feel superior to others. Maybe it is our ethnicity or our politics or even our particular brand of Christianity. When we do, we don't see other people as on the same team—as a part of the totality of humanity desperately in need of Jesus. We start to see others as enemies, beneath us and unworthy of our care, concern, and love.

This is precisely what Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan teaches. The Samaritan is our example precisely because he didn't see the wounded man as a Jew who despised him. He saw him only as someone in need of help.

This Sunday's message is about that parable and Jesus's call to us to be like that Samaritan—overlooking differences to demonstrate love and offer help. (Sermon notes are provided below.) I hope you will be present to consider this very important teaching of our Lord.

We will take time in the service to report on a very successful VBS and to say Happy Father's Day to all our Crossroads' fathers. We will honor you fathers this Sunday.

See you then. It's gonna be a good day!

Love,
Bro. Doug

Why Did the Samaritan Cross the Road?
Luke 10:25-37

In the 21st century we have become masters at erecting invisible _____ to exclude others. They define who is _____ of our compassion and care and who is to be _____ from our concern. The 1st century was not so different. Jesus entered that world to _____ walls down. He wants us to do the same.

In Luke 10, the questions of the Jewish lawyer seem honest and harmless, but he was attempting to make Jesus

look either _____ or _____. His 1st question tested Jesus's familiarity with common Jewish teachings. His 2nd question tested Jesus's theological orthodoxy. If Jesus says, the "heretical Samaritans" or the "Roman occupiers," He will be breaking with Pharisaic _____ and approved _____ identity. If He says, "only pure-blood Jews," He will effectively _____ many of those who had been attracted to His message.

In one sense, Jesus answered the Scribes' question with a story about a despised Samaritan, but in another sense, He _____ answer his question _____. The lawyer wants a list of people who _____ to receive his love based on shared identity. After telling the story of the Samaritan, Jesus changes the word "neighbor" from a static _____ to an action _____. "Neighbor" isn't a _____ you assign. It is an _____ you take.

This story is here for _____. God knows it is hard for us to act like neighbors to those who don't love Jesus or obey Him. So, He instructs us to tear down any and every wall that would keep us from extending help and compassion and the _____ of _____ to anyone in need. We aren't required to _____ as the world does, but we are required to _____ as God loves the world and has given His one and only Son for it.

When we were sinful, ungodly, God's _____, left for _____ on the side of the road, He crossed the vast road between _____ and _____. Then He drew a circle to _____. So, hear the one who crossed that road say to you, "_____."

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