

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, "_____."