**FOCUS** in 2020

October 25, 2020

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**The Gospel & Race**

***Racial Compassion*** – Luke 10:25-37



**Is there anyone you just do not like?**

What do you do when you are surrounded by people who look different, think different, believe different, enjoy different food, hobbies, or even experiences?

We live in the most diverse city in the United States and it can bring out **the best in us** or **the worst in us**.

What do you do when the people around you are **different** than you and in **need** of what you have?

Different and in need … of love, compassion, generosity, grace, mercy, attention, a voice, empathy …

You can **ignore** them. – stick your head in the sand, look the other way

You can **run** from them. – move, fear, hide

You can **villainize** them. – gossip, triangulate, align with group think, malign the other

You can **fight** them. – conflict, martial resources, put up a wall, tell them to go home

**What can you to do?**

There is a story in scripture that speaks to this very situation of racial compassion … it is a familiar story found in Luke 10 …

*And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher,* ***what shall I do to inherit eternal life****?”* Luke 10:25

*He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And 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 answered correctly;* ***do this, and you will live****.”* Luke 10:26-28

*The great commandment isn’t about loving issues,* ***it’s about loving people.*** Bryan Loritts

*But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “****And who is my neighbor?****”* Luke 10:29

We are all the same kind of **different** and we all have the same kind of **needs**.

*“I found out everybody’s different – the same kind of different as me. We’re all just regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us. The truth about it is, whether we is rich or poor or something in between, this earth ain’t no final restin place. So in a way, we is all homeless – just workin our way toward home”* ― **Denver Moore, Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound Them Together**

Make yourself **aware** of another person’s **reality**.

*Jesus replied, “A man was going down* ***from Jerusalem to Jericho****, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.* Luke 10:30

*A point of view is just a view from a point!* – Ray Bakke

Develop greater **empathy** for another person’s **situation**.

**Why is empathy so hard?**

**Cognitive Empathy**

**Empathy Gap**

*Now by chance a* ***priest*** *was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.* Luke 10:31

*So likewise a* ***Levite****, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.* Luke 10:32

*But a* ***Samaritan****, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had* ***compassion****.* Luke 10:33

Learn to **empathize** before you **criticize**!

Take compassionate **action** that represents God’s heart and the Gospel message.

*He went to him and* ***bound up his wounds****, pouring on* ***oil*** *and* ***wine****. Then he set him on* ***his own animal*** *and brought him to an inn and* ***took care of him.*** Luke 10:34

*And the next day* ***he took out two denarii*** *and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’* Luke 10:35

Central to the gospel message is **compassion**.

**Compassion** :  
 ***com*** *– with;* ***passion*** *– suffer …* *to suffer with*

Compassion and **justice** are two sides of the same coin.

*Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; justice without mercy is cruelty.* Thomas Aquinas

**Justice**: receiving what you have earned or what you are owed by right—whether good or bad.

***He executes justice*** *for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.*

Deuteronomy 10:18

***Blessed are they who observe justice****, who do righteousness at all times!* Psalm 106:3

*“The Rock, his work is perfect,* ***for all his ways are justice****. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*

Deuteronomy 32:4

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him;* ***he will bring forth justice*** *to the nations.* Isaiah 42:1

*“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and* ***he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles****.* Matthew 12:18

ThePrincipleof **Proximity** - the fact that people who encounter each other more frequently tend to develop stronger relationships.

When it comes to the man left for dead. Some looked down on him because of **circumstances** (what happened to him), some looked down on him because of his **condition** (the shape he was in, contamination, defilement), some looked down on him because of his **class** (I’m better, I’m busy, I’m bothered). Of course, we can add **choices, color**, **character** or an understanding of the **cost** and choosing a lack of **charity** on our part to it as well.

*Which of these three, do you think,* ***proved to be a neighbor*** *to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “****You go, and do likewise****.”* Luke 10:36–37

Go and **do** likewise!