

Loving Our Neighbour

Youth Service – May 27, 2012

Ps 23 & Luke 10:25-37

For the first time since I have been here the youth have been given this opportunity to participate fully in a worship service. We hope that you have been enjoying the service so far and that your hearts have so far been blessed.

For the month of May we have been examining what love means to us in different ways and in different aspects of our life.

In our text Luke 10 and verse 27 we are told to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength and with our entire mind. Then in an inclusive way we are told to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

This morning we want to talk about what it means to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

The scripture shares the story about a man being robbed and beaten and left to die by robbers who showed no love for him.

It is interesting to note that the first person on the scene after the incident was a priest. Surprisingly, this priest showed no concern for this man who was dying as he just walked by on the other side of the road.

The other person the Levite, who came up and saw the beaten man lying on the road went over and looked at him and recognised that the man was not one of his people so he left him lying there.

The third person a Samaritan who saw the man lying there had compassion on him. He stopped what he was doing then, he went over to the man and he cleaned and dressed his wounds. He then raised him up and put him on his animal and took him to an inn where he took care of him. The following day he had to continue his journey so he made provision with the inn keeper to care of the man.

He took on the responsibility to care of someone he did not know. The way he treated this injured man demonstrated how he would have wanted to be treated if he was the person who had been robbed and beaten

We must therefore ask ourselves what it means to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves.

It means that in our daily living we must be prepared at all times to not just say we love others but we must demonstrate a willingness to show that love.

Here in Canada we have people from different races and ethnic groups. At school and even here in our church at Brentwood we have different people from different races. The way we treat each other demonstrates our love for our neighbours.

The priest in the story is similar to what we would call a pastor. We would have expected that he would have helped the man. But he did not and that is a case of telling others to love but not doing it ourselves. There are many people like that in the world. Unfortunately we see this happening when our parents, friends, family and teachers tell us that we are all equal yet we sometimes get treated differently because of the colour of our skin or the family that we belong to. Sometimes too they confuse us by telling us one thing but they themselves do the opposite of what they tell us to do.

We are also faced with persons who like the Levite will show some concern but when they see that we are different they just walk away from us. Recently Irene phone was stolen at school and while some persons chose to help other others just did not care about her and her loss.

I think that God wants us to be like Samaritan. If we get hurt, lost, beaten up we would want someone to help us. When we are feeling sad we want someone to cheer us up. When we are sick we want someone to help us get better by attending to us. When we fall down we all want someone to sympathise with us and help us to get back up.

We all want good for ourselves and God wants us to do unto others as we would want them to do unto us.

There are times when like the Good Samaritan we will have to use our time, our money and our physical strength to help someone who is down. Sometimes too we alone cannot help that person but we must ask someone or pay someone else to help that person.

We must be prepared to make sacrifices for each other.

At Brentwood here when we take the time out to share a meal we are demonstrating our love. Sometimes we buy things for others to eat and sometimes we take the time to prepare food so that others can share with us.

When we wear our name tag we are also saying that you are my neighbour and I want to get to know more about you.

Jesus wants to get to know more about us and to show us how much he loves us.

We all must take our time, take our money, take our compassion and consideration for each other and use them to show one another how much we love each other.

On this youth Sunday we want to say how much we love you all and how much you make us feel loved and comforted at Brentwood.

As we go through the week we invite you all to be like the Good Samaritan and show love, compassion and consideration for all whom we come across even though they may look physically different from us.

Let us truly do unto others as we would like them to do unto us and by doing this we will be keeping God's instruction to us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

Amen.

Written and preached by Vanessa Boadu