

It's A Beautiful Day n the Neighborhood; Luke 10:25-29

I. Mr. Rogers

- A. Mr. Rogers brought people together by speaking on a range of topics; death, competition, divorce, war, and on many occasions, anger
- B. He created a neighborhood that brought people together
- C. "One of the greatest gifts you can give anybody is the gift of your honest self. I also believe that kids can spot a phony a mile away."¹
- D. Our goal is to bring people together in the knowledge of Jesus and we do that by being a wonderful neighbor

II. Samaria

- A. Luke 10:30–33 (ESV);³⁰ 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.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, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.
- B. We need to understand the history between the Samaritans and the Israelites
 - 1. Jeroboam was in charge of Solomon's forced labor
 - 2. God, through the prophet Ahijah, told Jeroboam that he would be king over 10 of the 12 tribes. One tribe would remain under the lineage of David
 - 3. When Solomon found out he sought to kill Jeroboam so Jeroboam fled to Egypt
 - 4. When Solomon died his kingdom was to pass to Rehoboam, his son. Jeroboam returned and confronted Rehoboam
 - 5. 1 Kings 12:1–4 (ESV);¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.² And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.³ And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam,⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you."
 - 6. 1 Kings 12:6–8 (ESV);⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?"⁷ And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever."⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.
 - 7. 1 Kings 12:16–20 (ESV);¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents.¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to

¹ Owen, Rob (November 12, 2000). "There goes the Neighborhood: Mister Rogers will make last episodes of show in December". Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Magazine. Retrieved March 20, 2006.

Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. ²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.

C. Jeroboam is now king over 10 of the 12 tribes

1. 1 Kings 12:28–32 (ESV); ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. ³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. ³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.
2. The feast that Jeroboam tried to copy is called the Feast of Booths; a 7 day feast starting and ending with food offerings to the Lord
3. It came just a few days after the Day of Atonement

D. There was a very big divide between Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom)

1. Israel is taken captive by Assyria in 722 BC
2. The region becomes know as Samaria
3. The king of Assyria repopulated the area with people from many other nations and one captive Israelite “priest” who settled in Bethel (2 Kings 17:28)
4. 2 Kings 17:41 (ESV); So these nations feared the Lord and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.
5. They had a rival temple out Mt. Gerizim and a rival text called The Samaritan Pentateuch

E. John 4:9 (ESV); The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

III. Neighbors

A. The comparison is between the behavior of the Samaritan and the behavior of the Priest and the Levite

B. Luke 10:34–35 (ESV); ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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.’

C. Priest - a descendant of Aaron who conducted sacrifices and various purification rites

1. This man would have known the answer to the question, “what shall I do to inherit eternal life”
2. Yet, in the parable the Priest is unwilling to love his neighbor

D. Levite - a descendant of the of Levi who assisted the priests but could not perform the sacrifices

1. Another religious leader who should have known how to inherit eternal life
2. Again, the Levite is unwilling to love his neighbor

E. Notice the lengths to which the Samaritan went to love his neighbor

1. Bound his wounds
2. Took him to a place to rest (inn)

3. Paid for his care
4. Ensured that the care didn't stop for lack of money
- F. Jesus deliberately chose an outsider, and a hated one at that, for his hero in order to indicate that being a neighbor is not a matter of nationality or race. ²
- G. The atmosphere in America today is NOT one of loving our neighbor
 1. We are divided by culture (people get upset by the flag or the national anthem)
 2. We are divided by color (black lives matter... they do, but so do all other lives)
 3. We are divided by economics (1% are demonized while 99% are victimized)
 4. Instead of focusing on what divides us, we should focus on what unites us (love)
- H. What makes you feel loved
 1. "I told her I loved her when we got married. If anything changes, I'll let her know"
 2. We can say the words "I love you" but not make the person feel loved
 3. Love is an action
 4. 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (ESV); ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
 5. We must be determined to show this kind of love to even our enemies
 6. Romans 12:19–21 (ESV); ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 7. Luke 6:35–36 (ESV); ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

IV. Friends

- A. Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV); ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
- B. We must be neighbors to all in our community, taking care of them as best we can
- C. Showing the Father's love to them through the Son
- D. "So, let's make the most of this beautiful day. Since we're together we might as well say: Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor? Won't you please, Won't you please? Please won't you be my neighbor?" Fred Rogers

² Robert H. Stein, Luke, vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 317–318.