

Getting Ready for Company

- **Introduction:**

- How do you prepare when company is coming to your home?
- Why do you prepare for company?
- What is the greatest commandment in the Bible?

Luke 10:25-37 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

- **5 Steps to Love our Neighbor and Prepare for Company:**

1. Involves having compassion for the lost.

a. Need to have the eyes of Jesus

Mat 9:36-38 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;
Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

*b. Need to have the **heart** of Jesus*

Luke 15:3-7 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

*c. Need to have the **hands** of Jesus*

Mat 8:14-15 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

*d. Need to have the **message** of Jesus*

John 3:1-3 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. Involves taking a risk and getting out of our comfort zone.

- What is the risk in this story?
- What risks are you taking to get involved in the lives of people?
- Write down the names of three people that you are praying to come to Friend Day right now:

3. Involves focusing on the individual needs of the person.

- “bound up his wounds”
 - Everyone has hurts
 - Everyone has habits
 - Everyone has hang-ups.

- “pouring in oil and wine”
 - Spiritual solutions for spiritual needs.

4. Involves a commitment to sacrifice for the kingdom.

- “as he journeyed”- Investment of time.
- “set him on his own beast”- Investment of his possessions.
- “he took out two pence”- Investment of his treasure.

5. Involves a long term commitment.

- “and whatsoever thou spendest more . . . I will repay thee”- Not interested in the quick fix or short term.
- Our goal is to prepare people to stand before Christ. “Make Disciples.”
- **Conclusion:**
 - What does the future look like for our church?
 - How do we prepare for the future?
 - What can one individual do to help get ready for the company?