

## Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

November 19-21, 2018

Topic: A Disciple Does Mercy

Luke 10:25-37



### Announcements:

**“The Lonely American:”** During this evening conversation with Senator Sasse and Russell Moore, we will examine the growing problem of loneliness in the country- the ways in which our alienation from each other is destroying individual lives and the fabric of society---and what can be done about it. **Mon Dec 26**, 6:30-8:30 pm. National Press Club/Ballroom, 529 14th Street NW. Cost, contact, & registration on our website.

**Community Forum:** Grace Downtown’s pastors, staff and leaders will be available for an open question-and-answer session. Formal members of Grace Downtown are especially encouraged to attend. Immediately following the **Sun Dec 2** worship service.

**Christmas in Story and Song:** A musical, candlelight celebration of the Christmas story. **Sun Dec 16**, 5pm during the worship service, at Christ Community Church. Would you pray for 2-3 people in your life you’d like to invite to share with them the hope of the gospel?

**Holidays:** The holidays are fast approaching! We are having trouble finding members who will be in town on **Dec 23** and who can usher. If you are a member who plans to be in town one of those days, will you please let Bryan (bryan@gracedc.net) know?

### Introduction:

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one the most famous Biblical stories. It tells of an extraordinary act of service by a Samaritan, a group that Israelites looked down upon. One way the passage could be read is a simple summons to good works. In this view, the message is that we are to live like the Good Samaritan. There is certainly some truth to this interpretation, for the last line concludes with, “You go, and do likewise.” (v.37)

However, it’s important to consider what we learn about God and what we learn about ourselves in light of the passage. The characters in the story help us to understand this. The lawyer is interested in proving to Jesus that he is righteous in himself (v.29). A man is beaten by robbers and left helpless on the side of the road to die. A priest and Levite happen by the man, but avoid him. A Samaritan comes by and cares for the man. As we read the story, we’re invited to see ourselves in all the characters in the story, all except for the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan is the one who does all the righteous deeds that we have left undone. When we identify ourselves in the other characters, we see how far short we come. And when we identify with the man on the side of the road, we see that Jesus is the Good Samaritan who brought us back from the dead, breathed new life into us by his Spirit, and paid the cost for our healing.

Once we see ourselves in light of the characters and see that we have been served by the Good Samaritan like the man in this story, only then are we ready to pursue the kind of works that Jesus charges us with in the final verse.

### **Read and Discuss:**

Read Luke 10:25-37 aloud together.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Which character in the story do you most identify with?
2. How does Jesus dignify (respect the humanity) of the lawyer in the passage?
3. In what ways does the Good Samaritan display radical service?
4. If Jesus is the true Good Samaritan, what do we learn about who God is from the passage?
5. What do we learn about ourselves when we consider the different characters in the story?

### **Application:**

1. Can you think of someone who you believe embodies the spirit of the Good Samaritan?
2. Can you think of a time when someone served you in a way that went beyond what you expected?
3. Do you find it difficult to ask for or receive help from others? From Jesus?
4. How do you understand Jesus' final command in this passage?

### **Prayer:**

*The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to...*

...giving thanks to the Lord our God that he has preserved us and brought us this far. We thank him for the provision of food, shelter, meaningful work, and all that we need.

...for God to hear the cry of those who are in need, especially those who are ill and those who are without homes.

...that leaders of the nations may rule with justice and righteousness. Ask God to draw near, protect and comfort those who risk losing their lives because they worship your Christ--- our brethren in Turkey, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."  
(Revelation 15:3-4)