

Sermon Guide:

Luke 6:32-38

Takeaway:

Christ invites us to _____.

From Nouwen:

“It is hard to listen to others when the pains and troubles of our own lives are clamoring for attention. But if we learn to listen to our own needs and wants, that listening can free us to learn to become truly present to the inner deep and fragile beauty of those under our care. Then even the most mundane and repetitive caregiving tasks can become a means for us to grow. With patience, with time, we can develop relationships of respect, listening, presence, and truthfulness with those we care for.

“We may even form a relationship with another whom we might never have chosen to know, and both be amply enriched because of it... We need help, and we should never be afraid to ask for it and never be reluctant to claim it.”

Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Caregiving (26-27)

For Reflection:

Is it easier for you to love or be loved?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Introduction:* What drew you to participating in this study on community and neighboring?
2. *Application:* We're using Mister Rogers and Henri Nouwen as guides to loving our neighbors. Who stands out in your life as someone who exemplified the love of neighbor?
3. *Scripture:* Jesus says those who love "expecting nothing in return" will receive "a great reward" (Luke 6:35). Have you ever experienced this? Why might love without expectation be important?
4. *Scripture:* Jesus said, "Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36). How does this challenge us?
5. *Application:* Do you find it easier to care for someone or receive care? How might a weakness in either affect the other?
6. *Application:* How might we approach congregational care in ways that allow for both the giving and receiving of care?
7. *Conclusion:* How can we pray for one another this week?

Join us to discuss these questions and more this Wednesday at 6pm!

Discussion Questions for Kids:

1. God asks us to love others as much as God loves us. Use words or draw a picture to describe how much God loves you!
2. What are some ways we can let other people love us?
3. *Pray:* Dear God, please help us love those around us. In Jesus name, Amen.