



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, May 5, 2024

New Realities

Modern Medicine

Read/Reflect

1. Read Luke 10:25-37 and summarize what's happening - beyond Jesus telling a parable; who is he addressing? Why, what's the initial question that gets this exchange going? How does the parable answer the initial question?
2. Reflect on some of the surrounding text to the parable; for example:
 - 9:51-56 -- if this is on Jesus' mind when he tells the parable, what does that add to the meaning of the parable?
 - 10:16-20 – 72 people are commissioned by Jesus to work the harvest, amazing things happens and Jesus only suggests to them, “rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Why? How does that compare to the point of the parable?
 - 10:38-42 – how does this episode about Mary and Martha answer the original question in 10:25?

Explore

3. What advances in modern medicine are you aware of that seem exciting? That seem worrisome? That seem wrong?
4. What should be our perspective on sickness and suffering?
 - Sickness reminds us of our “sin-sick” souls and who we are (modern medicine can deceive us).
 - If we can only get rid of all sickness we could live forever (modern medicine can get us there).
 - Compassion and mercy are the real healers of our sickness (modern medicine diminishes their significance and/or their necessity).
 - One is just unlucky if one is sick, there will always be sickness (modern medicine over promises).
 - Sickness, suffering, and mortality will always be elements of Christian faith (modern medicine cannot eliminate them).
5. Where would you place yourself in the Luke 10 parable?
 - I'm the guy in the ditch, helpless and desperate for someone to save me.
 - I'm the “teacher of the law” thinking I don't fit into the parable.
 - I'm the good Samaritan looking out for the down and out.
 - I'm an onlooker, amazed that someone so despised can show such compassion.

Pray

- List the people you know who are sick, praying for their healing, God's mercy, and for comfort.