

Pastor Ian, 26.04.2026
Christ the King Community Church Milton Keynes

Who is my neighbour? Luke 10:25–37
A man asks Jesus a question that sounds spiritual but isn't.
“Who is my neighbour?”
It's not curiosity. It's strategy.
He's asking: Where can I draw the line?
Who counts?
Who doesn't?
Who deserves love and who can I safely ignore?
Before we go any further, let's bring this closer.
Before we talk about nations
think about the person you instinctively dismiss.
The one you've already decided is wrong.
The one you don't listen to anymore.
The one you've quietly written off.
That's where this story begins.
Jesus tells a story.
A man is beaten, stripped, and left for dead.
A priest sees him and keeps walking.
A Levite sees him and keeps walking.
Let's not soften that.
These are not villains.
They are “good people” with reasons:
It's dangerous to stop
It's not my responsibility
I might get involved in something complicated
I don't know what side he's on
Sound familiar?
Then Jesus does something explosive.
A Samaritan stops.
Not just a stranger, an enemy.
The kind of person you warn your children about.
The kind of person your community has already decided is wrong, dangerous, and beyond trust.
And he is the one who shows mercy.
Now take that story and place it in our world.
Imagine someone bleeding in the wreckage of conflict.
You don't know their politics.
You don't know their religion.
You don't know which flag they stand under.
But you suspect, they might be your enemy.
So here's the question:
Do you help them? Or do you move on?
Because we don't literally pass by bleeding bodies on roads in the UK.
We pass them on screens.
We see destroyed cities, grieving families, terrified children.
And within seconds, we decide:
“They started it.”

“They deserve it.”
“It’s complicated.”
“Not my problem.”

We don’t cross the road. We switch apps.
We don’t avoid eye contact. We mute, block, and scroll.
And just like the priest and the Levite—
we keep walking.
Here’s what makes Jesus’ story dangerous.
He doesn’t let you stay neutral.
He doesn’t say, “Wait until you understand everything.”
He doesn’t say, “Help only your side.”
He says: The one who showed mercy is the neighbor.
Not the one who was right.
Not the one who was justified.
Not the one who belonged.
The one who *stopped*.
Let’s be clear.
This story is not saying injustice doesn’t matter.
It is not saying truth doesn’t matter.
It is saying this: Your compassion must not depend on who deserves it.
Now let’s push this further.
What if the Samaritan helped someone who hated him?
What if the wounded man, if conscious, would have rejected him?
What if helping him meant being misunderstood by your friends and family?
Now we are no longer talking about kindness.

We are talking about, crossing lines you were told never to cross.
We are talking about loving people your society has taught you to reject.
We are talking about choosing mercy when it costs you your reputation.
And if we’re honest, we are very good at loving our neighbours.
When it’s
Our family.
Our community. Our people.
But Jesus is not impressed by tribal love.
Even enemies take care of their own.
The real question is: Can you love beyond your that?
And if you’re starting to feel uncomfortable. GOOD!
Because this parable is meant to disrupt you. It’s not that nice little Sunday school story.
Because if we’re honest, many of us have walked past.
We’ve justified it.
Explained it.
Defended it.
And if that’s you, you’re not alone. We are all guilty.
But Christ does not just tell this story. He becomes it.
He crosses the ultimate divide. He comes to us when we are the ones broken, guilty,
undeserving.
He does not ask which side we’re on.
He kneels. He lifts. He restores.

This is not just a command. It is an invitation. An invitation to become something different in a world that runs on division.

Now the question comes back, sharper than before:

When the enemy is bleeding. Which one are you?

The one who explains why?

The one who debates responsibility?

The one who protects their side?

Or the one who kneels...

and gets their hands dirty with mercy?

Will you be a neighbour?

or will you keep walking?

Jesus says: Go and do likewise.

And the road you walk this week, the people you encounter, the suffering you cannot ignore, these will reveal the answer to the question we have been asking.

Not, "Who is my neighbour?" But, "Will I be one?"

May God give us the grace to see clearly, the courage to cross the road, and the mercy to act, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.