



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Who is My Neighbour?

SPEAKER

SP Chua Seng Lee

THEME Building the Right Culture

DATE

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Building on the sermon series of cultivating the right culture within BBTC, SP reminds us that love is the foundation on which a culture of encouragement, excellence and excitement is built upon. In this sermon, which is inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, SP emphasises the need to demonstrate love to our neighbours and the areas in our lives that need to be addressed to do so.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

SP recounts the parable of the good Samaritan to reveal the essence of neighbourly love, using a modern retelling of the story where a passerby shows genuine concern for a wounded man. Through this relatable example, he conveys that love is not merely words but action-driven care and compassion, even for people who may seem different from us. This brings relevance to Jesus' teaching about showing mercy and care for those in need.

The parable's focus on the priest, Levite, and Samaritan explores the call for spiritual leaders and believers alike to practise compassion over spiritual responsibilities, and to make time for those who are down and out. The priest and Levite passed by the wounded man but were too caught up in their duties and didn't extend help. In contrast, the Samaritan, despite societal barriers, embodied Christ-like love by providing assistance and caring for the injured man.

This love and compassion which SP emphasizes, transcends ethnic, cultural, and social boundaries, reflecting God's inclusive love for all. SP encouraged everyone to identify modern-day "Samaritans" around us—those who are different from us or we might overlook—and urged everyone to demonstrate love with practical action.

SP also provided the context to the parable (Luke 10:25-29) – before Jesus shared the parable, the lawyer had asked what one must do to inherit eternal life. To which Jesus quoted the Old Testament commandments to love God and love one's neighbour. The lawyer then further tested Jesus by asking "Who is my neighbour?", attempting to narrow down the definition of "neighbour", but Jesus expanded it and defined neighbours as someone around us regardless of ethnicity, religious, affiliation, social economic status etc. and dealt with the deeper issue of having the right relationship with God.

How can we develop a relationship with God that is right and loving?

It is when we:

- Love God
- Love our neighbour as ourselves

When we have the right relationship with God, **it will be translated into the right relationship with our neighbours if we allow God to address three issues in our lives.** These are issues with:

- 1) **The Heart:** Allowing God to address the pride in our hearts. Is there pride in our hearts that is limiting us from loving our neighbours?
 - a. Pride of the young lawyer: to test God
 - b. Pride of the religious leaders: too busy to care for others
- 2) **The Head:** Allowing God to address the prejudices in our heads and not allow our minds to limit us in loving the people around us.
 - a. Prejudices towards the Samaritans; people who are not like us
- 3) **The Hands:** Allowing God to address our “hands” by offering practical help to those in need.
 - a. In V34-35, the Samaritan bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them, brought him to an inn and took care of him – love for others must be demonstrated in tangible ways and not by mere words.

By allowing God to work through these areas, believers can genuinely reflect Christ's love for others.

CONCLUSION

SP concludes with a call to everyone to examine personal barriers that may have prevented us from living out the command of loving others. He encouraged everyone to reflect on the individuals God has placed in their lives and the ways they might respond to those needs through service, love and practical action.

QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on a personal experience where you either received or provided practical love and support. What did this teach you about Jesus' command of "loving your neighbour"?

2. How does the parable of the Good Samaritan challenge our understanding of love and neighbourliness? Of the head, heart and hands, which is the biggest area of struggle for you and why?

3. Jesus' definition of "neighbour" expands beyond ethnic or social boundaries. Who is God calling you to show mercy to? How can you participate in the work that BBTC is doing in the community?