

CHAPTER 6: A CREED FOR OTHERS

GOSPEL READINGS: Luke 10:25-37; Mark 12:28-34

...the second (greatest commandment) is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

The story of the Good Samaritan is a self-analysis on our willingness to practice mercy and kindness on those who need it – regardless of worth or deservedness.

Groups: Read the account in Luke 10:25-37 discuss the passage, its context, and Jesus' teaching.

1. Where in your life or story do you recognize and receive the mercy & love of God for you in Jesus Christ?
2. Who would you rather be in the story – the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan?
3. What makes loving others with extravagant mercy so dangerous?
4. Where and with whom is it hard for you to extend mercy right now?
5. Do you want mercy & love to be the marks of your life?

McKnight suggests some specific ways to apply this mercy and love (p.55-59). Spend some time personally considering these questions:

- Is your neighborly love evident in your home with those closest to you?
- How are you teaching your loved ones to be a *neighbor*?
- Are there parts of your world you are hesitant to show neighborly love (be it for work reasons, social barriers or because of a separation of church and 'real life' mentality?)
- How does *love* help you determine what to do when facing moral choices?

Next week: Chapter 7, John the Baptist, The Story of New Beginnings