

November 20, 2016
Heal Our Land
Part 2: Love Your Neighbor
Ted Cunningham

1. When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Luke 10:27).

- Jesus elaborated on “Love the Lord your God?” How do we love God with each of those components of ourselves: heart, soul, strength, and mind?

2. In Matthew loving God and our neighbors is the answer to what is the greatest commandment. In Luke it answers a questions for an expert in the law, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” When the man asks, “Who is my neighbor,” Jesus tells one of the most known and loved parables, The Good Samaritan. Read Luke 10: 25-37.

- What happened to the man on his journey? Describe him after he was assaulted.
- Who passed him by and why?
- Who helped him and why would that have been both scandalous and enlightening to the Jewish audience? (**A Samaritan. Samaritans were hated foreigners, half-breeds, Jews who had intermarried. Jews and Samaritans practiced open hostility with one another.**)
- Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.” What would that mean for our lives?

3. In the Matthew passage, Jesus said, “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- What does he mean by Law and Prophets?
- Would we ever break a commandment if we simply loved God and mankind? Explain how that is true.

4. Name someone you love who belongs to the following classes: young, old, Black, Hispanic, someone in a different political party, a Trump protester, someone from a different religion, an atheist, an immigrant, a refugee.

5. Choose one group from above and say how you might love them.

6. Jesus quoted the Old Testament in his answer about the two great commandments. In Leviticus 19, the Jews were instructed to take care of the poor, to “Love your neighbor as yourself, and were told that “the foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born.”

- What have you done or what can you do for the poor among us?
- Have you ever been an outsider?
- When you were a child were you ever unkind to someone different from you?

- Have you ever defended anyone?
- What is the first thought that comes to you when you hear the word “foreigner”?

7. The Southern Baptist churches have determined to welcome and adopt refugees into their churches and homes as a means to demonstrate to the nations that our God longs for every tribe, tongue and nation to be welcomed at his throne.”

- Ted told about a 23-year-old male who demonstrated his love to refugees by doing something specific. What was it? (**He came after work to help a refugee family learn English.**)
- What are some tangible things we can do to help refugees?

8. How does this scripture encourage you: “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility . . .” (Ephesians 2:14).

9. Psalm 129:23 says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Can we pray this as well as pray for the things Ted suggested at the end of his message: “Lord, grow our hearts in love for the young man wearing a “Black Lives Matter t-shirt. Lord, grow our hearts in love for the immigrant and the refugee. Lord, guide our government leaders, military leaders and law enforcement officers as they promote good and punish evil here at home and around the world.”