

**Sermon series:** New Years 2019  
**Sermon title:** Be Sent  
**Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:25-37  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
January 13, 2019  
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At the beginning of 2019, we are taking a look back at our Church Vision: reviewing what we should be focused on as a church and as individuals.

We want to be people who **BEHOLD** God. That's first and foremost. We all need to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. The way that we behold God and get to know him is by being a '*beaver for the Bible.*'

We also want to **BELONG** to the church in a deep way. How do we do that? By loving one another and building up one another with the gifts that God has given us.

We are called to love God (**Behold**), love one another (**Belong**) and we are called to.... **BE SENT** as witnesses to those around us and around the world: both locally and globally. Make no mistake about it, as a follower of Jesus we ARE sent, whether we want to be or not.

Every one of us is called to '*proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.*' 1Peter 2:10

**We are called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How do we do that? What steps do we need to take to love our neighbor?**

Turn in your Bible to Luke chapter 10, which is the story of the Good Samaritan.

You probably know the story but let's read it again quickly to make sure we see clearly what it's about.

**[Read Luke 10:25-37]**

This story of the Good Samaritan helps us answer the question we want to ask today and it is this: What does it mean to love our neighbor?

The command to 'love our neighbor' is mentioned 9 times in the Bible. Jesus makes it very clear that beyond loving God, this is the most important commandment.

In this story we have this man asking Jesus who his neighbor is, seeking to justify himself. It was probably because he thought that he was doing a good job of obeying this command by loving his fellow Jews, those who were like him, spoke his language, dressed like him and had the same values as he did.

By using a Samaritan in this story Jesus makes it very clear that 'loving your neighbor' means loving those who aren't like you or even those who you despise or despise you. In fact, Jesus stretches the meaning beyond what many thought it meant. He took it to mean,

not just loving Jews, not just loving those near your house but loving your fellow man- loving everyone made in the image of God.

What do we learn about loving our neighbor from this passage? What did loving his neighbor require of the Samaritan man?

1. **Requires a heart of compassion.** It must start in the heart. This is the real issue. We can talk about methods and strategies all we want but what we really need is a *heart* that feels compassion for people. This is what I need. So, we must pour out our hearts to God in prayer and fasting asking him the he might change us and make our hearts different: to where we actually want to love our neighbor. We need a heart of compassion for people.
2. **Requires him to step out and actually do something.** The Samaritan man had a heart of compassion but he actually had to step out and step over and go to the man. Oh, how easy it is to have compassion but not do anything! Loving our neighbor requires a step of faith from us.
3. **Requires risk.** The hurt man could've been faking. He could have been the decoy for a gang of robbers. What if they blamed the Samaritan man for trying to help? What if the man rang up a bill at the inn?

4. **Required him sacrificing time and money.** Notice that the Samaritan man was on his way somewhere. It cost him his time. He bound up his wounds. He likely used some of his own stuff to love this guy. Maybe he ruined some fabric. It says that he poured oil and wine on his wounds. That would have been costly. He sacrificed physically as he had to walk while the man rode on his animal. Maybe he was tired! And it says in verse 34 that he took him to a hotel and gave the innkeeper 2 days wages to take care of the man until he came back. He spent some cash on this guy. Loving neighbors requires time and money.

At the end of the story, the lawyer is asked by Jesus, Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who was beaten up? Was it the priest, the Levite or the Samaritan? The man's response helps us know what it is that we need to truly love our neighbor. He says that the neighbor is, **“The one who showed him mercy.”**

This story is framed by two words on each end: compassion and mercy. He had compassion on the man. He showed him mercy. That's the key element in this story. We will talk more about that in a bit.

Notice the last thing that Jesus says. He says, **“Go and do likewise.”** Go and show compassion and mercy and love your neighbor.

Now, we know that this word is not just for the lawyer. It is also for us. “Love your neighbor”, is mentioned all over the New Testament. This is a command to all believers. We are to **“Go, and do likewise.”** We are to love our neighbors.

I want to exhort us all this morning to make some serious changes in our lives in order to love our neighbors.

Listen, we need help with **Being Sent**. Both as individuals and as a church we need the Lord to empower us to be his witnesses. But, in my case..(and likely in your case)...we need a change of heart. We need to ‘love our neighbors’ but we can’t just muster up and try harder. Oh yes, we need to be obedient to share the gospel but I can say all I want to today to “just do it” but our hearts are the problem. We need the Holy Spirit to break us down and work on us and change us. We need a truly compassionate heart and a merciful heart that sees people, feels for people, takes risks, spends money, gives our time to love our neighbors. We need a heart that opens up our lives and our homes to love our neighbors.

So, the crucial thing that we need to do...is to fast and pray till God changes us.

Personally and corporately we need to **(Luke 10:2)** **“pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our workers into his harvest fields”**...but we need to

understand that when we pray that we are asking him to send us.

Beyond prayer and fasting, I want to exhort you this morning to make some real changes in your life to love your neighbors. Probably needs to be our actual neighbors as well as those that God brings into your pathway: your family, neighbors, co-workers and friends.

**Exhortation 1-** Pray our guts out for God to break our heart for those around us. Gather with us on Thursday nights to pray together with us for this. Pray personally for this. Pray with your small group or prayer partners.

**Exhortation 2-** Give one night a week to ministry to non-believers. Open up your home and serve some soup or meet some colleagues who don't know Jesus and invite people to share a meal with you and read the Bible together with you. If we don't have time to reach out to our neighbors then something is wrong. *"The front door of our home is the side door to the church."* (Dr. Thom Wolf)

**Exhortation 3-** Attend fewer Bible studies. Some of us have been Christians for 20-30 years and we are still being equipped. Attend one less Bible study (and it shouldn't be your church that you drop, but the one you attend somewhere else or BSF) and give that time to loving our neighbors.

It's time to put our learning into practice!

It's time to cross the road and do something.

The time has come to bandage wounds, pour out oil and pour out wine on people's hurts.

Time to put someone in our car and drive them somewhere. Time to spend our time and money on loving our neighbors and those we know who are without Christ.

Oh yes, please **BEHOLD God**, be a beaver for the Bible...chew and chew the Word but then.....build something! Do something! Be Sent.

**Exhortation 4-** Think like you're on mission. Because you are on mission! You are the one who God has sent to your workplace, your village, your building. You are Christ's ambassador to your sphere of influence. **There are 2 types of Christians in the world: the ones sent locally and the ones sent globally.**

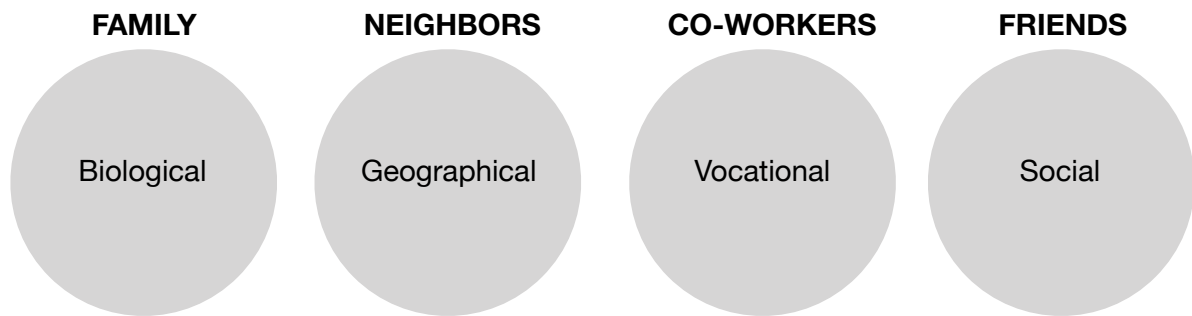
Charles Spurgeon said, *"You are either a missionary or an impostor."*

Think about this. Imagine yourself moving to Hong Kong as a missionary. Imagine that you are sent here by God and some kind of mission agency. You move into your neighborhood or village to reach them for Christ. You take the job that you currently have to reach them for Christ.

Well guess what? You are sent this way.

You are sent to love your neighbor as you love yourself: to love them in the deepest most profound way possible..by giving them your life and the gospel.

Our lives here *locally* have 4 spheres of influence.



Those are our primary neighbors that we are to love here in Hong Kong.

That is who we are primarily sent to.

Are you engaged at all?

How's your heart?

What does God need to do in your heart?

Will you commit to pray and fast and ask God to empower you by his Holy Spirit to witness: to give you the desire to love your neighbors?

Imagine what our Sunday gatherings would be like if we were intentionally loving our neighbors all week.

We'd all come together to celebrate what God did throughout the week and our worship would be hot!

Will you act? Will you BE SENT by the Lord?

Will you step out and do something to love your neighbors?

Imagine if we all did this?

We'd change this city.