

me & My **BIG MOUTH**

PART 3: WHO'S MY NEIGHBOR?

Introduction

In recent weeks, we've had our hearts broken. Precious human lives have been taken right before our eyes. What is our hope for the human race? What is our responsibility as followers of Jesus to bring this hope to the world? And how should it play out in the words we speak? Really, has there ever been a more important time to be quick to listen, and slow to speak?

A Note from Rich

In my 30 years of pastoring, I cannot remember a time when emotions have been more raw. Please be very gentle with one another this week as we talk through this lesson. Please be extra careful not to make blanket statements with the assumption that everyone in the room agrees with you.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever created distance in a relationship because of words you've spoken, or because of words someone else has spoken to you?
2. So, is John Mayer right? Is the only solution to never speak up again? Or, is there a way to communicate well in a friendship, in a marriage, in a working relationship? Is there a way to preserve the friendship with someone with whom you disagree, even if that disagreement is huge?
3. Think about someone in your life who is a Samaritan. You may not be comfortable sharing with the group. What is something you could do this week to serve that person? To humble yourself and submit to them the way that Jesus humbled himself for us?
4. How does that play out in the words you speak or the words you type?
5. It might be easy for you to love people that don't look like you. But that's not what Jesus commanded us to do. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." What does that mean for you today?
6. We define love, as "not hate." We define love as tolerance. But Jesus said you pick someone up. Jesus said you pour out expensive oil and wine. Jesus said you put them on your donkey and you walk. Jesus said you put them up at a hotel and you pay for it. Jesus said love is a verb and it calls you to do what no one expects of you. Who will you love this week and how?

Moving Forward

The one prayer Jesus prayed for you was in John 17:10, that as believers we would be one with each other. This unity is not because we are uniform in thought, but because we are united in our purpose to love God and from that to love people. Why? "So that the world may believe that you have sent me." The purpose of our lives to inspire to know Jesus.

That's the kind of love that should flow from us. Jesus didn't talk about what the Samaritan did for society at large, but instead what he did for one individual.

Changing Your Mind

And Jesus said to him, "You go, and DO likewise."

Luke 10:37 NIV