

Do you begin to see how Jesus is blowing the question "Who is my neighbor?" wide open. Two persons who may have had an Covenant obligation to help, simply pass by on the other side, and one person with no Covenant obligations and who would have been seen as the last person likely to help stops and literally saves this stranger's life.

Of all the twists in this encounter, the last one is the most striking to me. When Jesus finishes his story, he puts this question to the lawyer: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

Notice he didn't say, "The man left for dead in the ditch—there is your neighbor." Rather he turned the question completely on its head.

For those of us seeking an answer to the lawyer's question, Jesus' response is totally unsatisfactory. We even start asking questions about the man in the ditch: 'Why wasn't he more careful? Why did he take a road he knew was dangerous? Maybe he was also a thief who just happened to fall into hands of his own kind?'



But Jesus moves the question far away from the effort to define who is our neighbor, far away our attempts to define who is worth of our compassion.

Rather he goes right to the heart of the matter. He drives the question home to our hearts.

The lawyer replies to Jesus, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus responds: "There you go! You have your answer. Go and live mercifully."

It is almost as if Jesus is saying, 'when mercy and compassion characterize your attitude toward others, the question of "who is my neighbor?" falls mute. We don't even need to ask it. Indeed we come to find that it is a foolish question.

If we can learn to live lives characterized by mercy and compassion, not only will we live, but others will live as well.

The heart of missions is mercy and compassion; the kind of mercy and compassion we see in Jesus. It is to lives of mercy and compassion that we are called.

Out of lives mercy and compassion, we do not need to ask "who?"

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One other aspect of this study caused me to pause and take inventory.

In the section of this chapter when Keith is addressing some practical steps we can take to practice missions, he lists as Step One—*Get to know your neighbors.*

So obvious, right? But I could not help but feel convicted. How many of my neighbors do

I know? How well do I know my neighborhood?

How well do we as a church know our neighborhood and our neighbors? How can we love them if we are not willing to know who they are? To get to know them, to build relationships?

I am enjoying this study, but it challenges me in ways I was not expecting.



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**CHURCH STAFF**

*Dr. Jim Holladay*  
Senior Pastor

*Rev. Derek Harris*  
Associate Pastor:  
Music

*Dr. Laurice Rogers*  
Associate Pastor:  
Community Care

*Jiyoung Kim*  
Administrative  
Secretary

*Chris E. Palmer*  
Plant Manager

# The Carillon

Week of July 16, 2023



*Jim's Jottings*

*"Missions is loving your neighbor as yourself."*

—Keith Stilwell

Each week of our study of Keith Stilwell's Being A Disciple Community, I have found some new challenge, some new way of thinking that causes me reconsider not only how I understand something, but whether or not my way of engaging in that topic is adequate.

This past week's study dealt with Missions as one of the practices of a disciple community. Keith leaned heavily into what we commonly label as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" to frame the discussion.



This parable is deceptively simple. At the same time, the radical twists and turns that Jesus takes in telling this story challenge us to avoid simple moralisms both in interpreting and applying it to our life in this world.

The context for the parable is a conversation Jesus has with a lawyer, who had asked Jesus what he needed to do to be saved. Jesus asks him what TORAH says on the matter. Astutely, the lawyer answers by giving a summary that was entirely congruent with Jesus' own teaching: "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." Jesus commends his answer and admonishes him to live out what he knows. Skipping over the question of whether he was loving God with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind, the



**July 16**

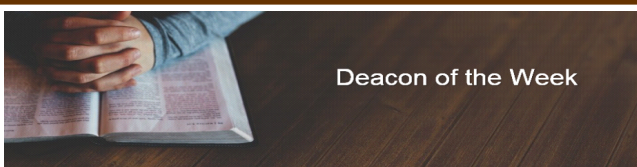
Camera– Errol Morgan

Sound– Ray Powell

**July 23**

Camera– Ruth Holladay

Sound– Lindsey Harris



Deacon of the Week

**Tim Vanderhoof**

241-9517 (h) 640-1447 (c)



**SUNDAY**

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship on Facebook®

YouTube®,

& lyndonbaptist.org

**WEDNESDAY**

6:30 p.m.

Midweek Service on Facebook® & YouTube®



**SCRIPTURE READERS**

**July 16**

Ann Sturdevant

**July 23**

Sandy Hoover

**July 30**

Addie Brownell



We are pleased to welcome *The Liberian Community Association of Kentucky and Southern Indiana* to the family of groups who share our facilities on an ongoing basis.

They will have an office on the third floor of the older education building, as well as another room for *Community* meetings.

We are happy to be a part of the *Community Associations* efforts to address the needs and concerns of the Liberian community.



**Monday, July 17**

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

**Tuesday, July 18**

9:30 a.m.— Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m.— All Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Disciple Study - Facebook Live

**Wednesday, July 19**

4:00 p.m.— Administrative Team

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Study - In person/Zoom

**Monday, July 24**

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters

**Tuesday, July 25**

9:30 a.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Al Anon Group

1:30 p.m. - Disciple Study - Facebook Live

**Wednesday, July 26**

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Study - In person/Zoom

**Monday, July 31**

9:00 a.m. - Mary Adkins Quilters



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

**July 16th**

Addie Brownell

Peggy Prather

**July 21st**

Victoria Hicks

**July 22nd**

Donna Brenzel

**July 23rd**

Libby Reynolds

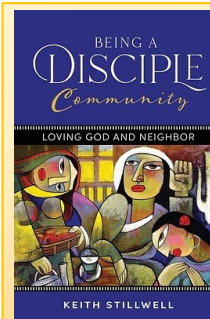
**July 26th**

Gene Morris

Patricia Palmer-Edwards

**July 28th**

Diana Flemister



**Summer Study Series Continues**

Our study of Keith Stiwell’s book, *Being A Disciple Community* continues on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays at 1:30 on Facebook®, Jim provides an overview and commentary on each chapter. On Wednesday evenings we engage in conversation around the tables on the subject for the week.

This week we will explore the church’s practice of “Witness.”



lawyer jumps to part about loving one's neighbor as one's self, and asks, "And who is my neighbor?"

Keith points out that implicit in the lawyer's question, is another: "And who is not my neighbor?" If we can come to some clarity about who makes up the category or neighbor, then we can determine who does and does not deserve our love and ministry.

Luke points out that the lawyer asks the question "seeking to justify himself." I wonder if Luke might be being too hard on the fellows. Perhaps he is seeking Jesus' understanding of Leviticus 19:17-18: "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

From the lawyer's point of view, this may have been a legitimate, maybe even an expansive question. From a legal point of view, one wonder whether of not "kin" and "neighbor" mean the same thing? Do the terms "kin", "neighbor", and "your people" refer to the same people, or are their three groups of people? If so, how do we determine the difference?

If they refer to the same group of people, does that mean, in the context of Israel, that I am only obligated to love those of my tribe? Or do the terms "kin" and "your people" include all persons in all 12 tribes of Israel?

Is the term "neighbor" more expansive, i.e. does it include the stranger and alien that lives among us?

Is "neighbor" a geographically limited term? If so, how far do the boundaries extend? My community? The larger geographic area in which my tribe lives? The nation?

Jesus responds to the lawyer's question by telling a story that, in and of itself, blows the question wide open.

A man is beaten, robbed, and left for dead on the side of the road. Who is this man? Was he a Jew? Was he Samaritan? Was he a Gentile? Jesus leaves that detail out of the story. To Jesus, whatever his background, the man is simply a person who fell prey to the evil in the world.

Two people come upon the man in the ditch. Why don't they stop? Jesus does not tell us. But whatever their reason, each of them felt it was sufficient enough to forgo their Covenant obligation to render aid. Yet even they will not escape the judgment inherent in Jesus' question to the lawyer at the conclusion of the story.

A third person comes upon the man in the ditch; a person who has no Covenant obligation to fulfill the law of loving one's neighbor as outlined in Leviticus 19. This person is a Samaritan, one who is despised, hated, and denigrated in Judea. Samaritans were believed to be so spiritually and morally depraved that believing they would engage in anything but ruthless, lawless behavior would have been beyond the pale.

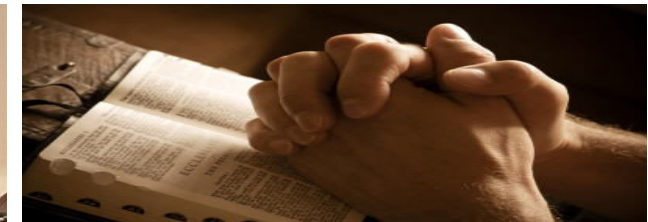
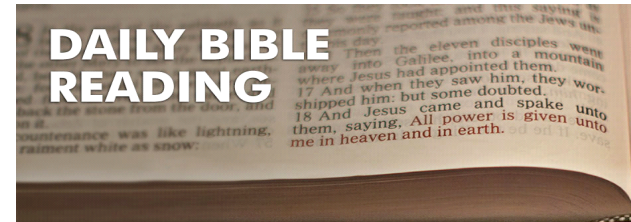
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## **PRAYER GUIDE**

**July 16, 2023**

*Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with you, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*



### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Monday** – Psalm 92; Leviticus 26:3 – 20; I Thessalonians 4:1 – 8

**Tuesday** – Psalm 92; Deuteronomy 28:1 – 14; Ephesians 4:17 – 5:2

**Wednesday** – Psalm 92; Proverbs 11:23 – 30; Matthew 13:10 – 17

**Thursday** – Psalm 86:11 – 17; Isaiah 41: 21 – 29; Hebrews 2:1 – 9

**Friday** – Psalm 86:11 – 17; Isaiah 44:9 – 17; Hebrews 6:13 – 20

**Saturday** – Psalm 86:11 – 17; Isaiah 44:6 – 8; Romans 8:15 – 25; Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43

**Sunday** – Psalm 145:8 – 14; Zechariah 9:9 – 12; Romans 7:15 – 25a; Matthew 11:16 – 19, 25 – 30

### **PRAYER FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD**

Pray that the Christian community living in Buddhist regions will be empowered to share their faith.

Pray for educational opportunities for Mongolian children and for the elimination of child labor.

Pray for liberation from shamanistic and occult practices.

Pray for a new generation of Christian leaders to be developed in Japan.

## PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

**Fannie Agee**

2003 Red Leaf Drive, 40242

**Myshael Brownell**

4228 Bayberry Drive, 40216

**Marvin Conn**

1713 Millgate Road, 40223

**Helen Contis**

512 Cricket Court, Orange Park FL 32073

**Dickie Cox**

Forest Springs Care Center, Room 401  
4120 Wooded Acre Lane, 40245

**Ken Dorton**

136 Dorton Circle, Castlewood, VA 24224

**Donna Douglas**

4003 Pacelli Place, 40245

**Virginia Ford**

Glen Ridge Health Campus, Room 513  
6415 Calm River Way, 40299

**Sandy Hoover**

1031 Willow Springs Drive, 40242

**Pam Wright**

3907 Yardley Court, 40299

**Liz Hornback**

8484 Grand Trevi Drive, 40228

**Gail Leyman**

**Gloria Landgrave**

3112 Graystone Manor Parkway, 40241

**Gene Morris**

3000 Curran Road, 40205

**Doris Omerod**

1706 Roosevelt Avenue, 40242

**Noemi Parroco**

Vitality, Room 112  
4501 Springdale Road, 40241

**Libby Reynolds**

9808 Neuquay Circle, 40241

**Maria Sturdevant**

7623 Celebration Way, Crestwood, KY 40014

**Barbara Whitley**

11710 Robin Lynn Lane, 40243

## Prayer for Family and Friends

**Evelyn Adiputra**

Friend of Ruth Holladay

**Rylan Applegate**

Grandson of Steve and Ann  
Sturdevant

**Liz Aulino**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Kyp Bellinger**

Family of Jim and Ruth  
Holladay

**John Biesel**

Father of Lindsay Harris

**Nellie Bolin**

Friend of Jack and Laurice  
Rogers

**David Brinkley**

Nephew of Jane Hasty

**Paul Christiansen**

Family of Madge Garwood and  
Merri McDonald

**Billy Compton**

Son in Law of Dickie Cox

**Alex Delano**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Kiersten Farris**

Family of Jack and Laurice  
Rogers

**Erin Ford**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Randall Ford**

Family of Marty Hamilton

**Ronald Furguson**

Father of Addie Brownell

**Lisa Gilmore**

Friend of Derek Harris

**Nelson Gruppe**

Cousin of Diana Flemister

**Jim Harmon**

Friend of Marty Hamilton

**Ray Hicks**

Son of Gary and Victoria Hicks

**Dr. Milton Horne**

Brother of Raeburn Horne

**Emily Janowik and Family**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Deb Jennings and Jordan Hahn**

Family of Sandy Hahn

**Sara Beth Lowe**

Friend of Derek and Lindsey  
Harris

**Eliza Moffett**

Family of Madge Garwood and  
Merri Mc Donald

**Family of Yamileth Morgan**

Sister of Errol Morgan

**Forrest Morehead**

Brother-in-Law of Sharon Wood

**Donna Prim**

Friend of Gary and Victoria  
Hicks

**Sean Ruwe**

Son of Vera Ruwe

**Gladys Smith**

Family of Addie Brownell

**Mark and Amy Snyder**

Family of Sandy Hoover

**Sean Stearman**

Grandson of Jan Raper

**Jessica Weisenfels**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Maggie Westwood**

Friend of Lindsey Harris

**Joseph Williams**

Family of Tim and Dora  
Vanderhoof