



**The Change Will Do You Good**  
**Change our Understanding of Neighbor**

1.19.20

*Who has been your best neighbor? Worst neighbor?*

You know the story of “The Good Samaritan,” but read it again. It’s really good. Luke 10:25-37

*What words, phrases, images, in the story stand out to you?*

*What questions are asked in the story?*

*Are you surprised with any of the answers to the questions? Which ones?*

According to Leviticus 19:18, how would the religious scholar define “neighbor”?

*How did the Samaritan fit into that definition?*

Think of the divisiveness in the U.S. today between groups. Multiply that 10 times and you get the feeling between the Samaritans and the Jews.

*Why, then, would Jesus make a Samaritan the hero of a story he was telling to a Jewish audience?*

Jesus was telling an expert in Moses’ Law that he could learn spiritual lessons from someone of a different religion!!

*What does that tell us about our openness to other religions?*

Jesus expanded “neighbor” from “my tribe” to “all people.”

*How is “All men are created equal” similar to the “neighbor” situation in this story?*

Monday, January 20 is MLK Jr Day. Dr. King said the Declaration of Independence was a “promissory note...a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white, men would be guaranteed unalienable rights.”

*How can we better expand the “Declaration’s” statement to include all people?*

*How can we better see everyone as our neighbor? (Colossians 1:17; 1 Peter 3:8)*

Jesus tells the religious scholar to “Go and do the same,” to “follow the example” of someone who was his religious and cultural enemy. Radical indeed.

Think about this: Jesus never tells us to do something without giving us the power to do it (Philippians 4:13).