Reflection Questions: Luke 10:25-37

For the message, "Rejoicing the City: The Work of Justice &* Mercy" given by Pastor John Ferguson
at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on July 29, 2018

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures
by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life.
You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion.
To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 10:25-37

A summary of the message: In response to a slanted question posed to him about eternal life, Jesus tells a story about what it means to love one's neighbor. His short, but powerful story has become known as the parable of the Good Samaritan. But the message isn't about simply being nice or showing random acts of kindness. Rather, it's a story that goes to the heart of what it means to be human and to love well.

Key Quotes:

- Martin Luther King, Jr., "I imagine the first question the priest and Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But…the Good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

- John Ferguson, "In the place where sin and death reigned, the Good Samaritan brought love and mercy and healing and hope. In a place where religious leaders looked out for their own interests, the Samaritan looked out for the interests of the others. In doing so, he gave shelter, hope, beauty—all foretastes of the Kingdom of God."

- Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- Proverbs 11:10, "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices."

- Scott Sauls, "True discipleship looks like taking care of widows and orphans, advocating for the poor, improving economies, paying taxes, honoring those in authority, loving our neighbors, pursing excellence in work, and blessing those who persecute us."

Bottom Line:

- Jesus calls us to love others in ways that are costly, because a neighbor is something that we are, not something that we have (HT: Philip Ryken).

QUESTIONS

1. **Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

    - In the passage, the lawyer wanted to narrowly define who his neighbor is; that is, who is he obligated to love. This assumes there are some people he should love and others that he shouldn't. In response to this, Jesus essentially tells him he's asking the wrong question. It's not so much a question about who is our neighbor but how are we proving that we are neighbors—people who love well—to others. What kind of lifestyle / character is this passage inviting you to embody? How would your life look differently if I were to really live out the message of this text?

- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption? In other words, how do we see Jesus as the "Great Samaritan" who at great cost to himself loved us perfectly?

2. **Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What would it look like for us a community of faith if we are to live out this text in our city? What is this text calling us to become / embody in this place where we live?

- What happens if we ignore this message? What happens if our community of faith is marked only by self-interests?

3. **Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- What are some ways you see the brokenness of our city?

- How does this passage serve as an invitation to our community of faith to love our community of BCS well? What might that look like?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points….

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