

UNLIKELY CONVERTS

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10) 08.24.08

- Monday** Before you go to work today Read Luke 10:25-37. Jesus is saying, "The world is my neighborhood!" No person is outside the reach of God. The borders I've drawn are not necessarily God's borders! God so loved the world! Not merely the American world, or the Western world, or the Jewish world, or the Gentile world. God's kingdom goes beyond all borders to all nations! And so the way I see others will influence the way I treat others; rather the way I see others SHOULD influence the way I treat others. Who is the unlikely convert you will meet today? Prepare yourself for an encounter you didn't know ahead of time was going to happen!
- Tuesday** Read 2 Kings 17. This chapter informs us about the origins of the Samaritan people. The question is this: how can I be *in* the world but not of it? What's the protocol for entering into someone's life/world to show mercy and at the same time not allowing myself to be taken down in the very sin I'm trying to help the person escape? This calls for wisdom! (Hint: it is not wise for a recovering gambling addict to witness at the OTB!) Be wise!
- Wednesday** Read Ephesians 2:14-18 where Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection took down the dividing wall of hostility; the fence! The Samaritan used the oil and wine as healing agents; elements which were part of Temple Worship. Am I getting it that what I learn and experience on Sunday is not just for Sunday? It's for the week! See Catharine Rohr's amazing story! <http://www.prisonentrepreneurship.org/> She gets it!
- Thursday** The parable of the Samaritan reminds us of how effective evangelism occurs. "When I was growing up evangelism was presentation focused: (1) Present Gospel information. (2) Challenge listener to become a Christian. (3) If affirmative decision is made, welcome them to the church. (4) Befriend them. (5) Train the new convert for service in ministry by being separated from the culture. These days it is participation focused. (1) Build a genuine, Christ-honoring friendship. (2) Let the non-Christian see your authentic faith lived openly and participate in it. (3) Let the Gospel be shared naturally in word and deed in the context of a friendship. (4) The non-Christian trusts Jesus after trusting a Jesus-follower. (5) The church community then celebrates the conversion of their friend!" (Driscoll 2004, 68)
- Friday** Before you go to work The person you think is your enemy is someone God wants in His family! Pray for them! It's hard to feel at odds with someone for whom you have just prayed.
- Saturday** Go to a distraction free place. Read Luke 10 one more time and Acts 16:11-40. Be silent for 10 uninterrupted minutes. Pray for your preacher and Sunday's services!