



Small group study materials, December 2019/January 2020

Chapter & verse – Richard Reddie (page 16)

Read Luke 10:25-37, followed by Richard Reddie’s article.

1. The article’s opening paragraph references a TV sitcom from the 1970s that used ‘racist epithets and crude stereotypes’. To what extent has racism, and neighbourly behaviour in society, changed since the 1970s?
2. Richard says that the parable of the good Samaritan ‘encapsulates naivety, violence, callous indifference and compassion’. Where do you find those things in the story? What else does the parable encapsulate?
3. Jesus tells the parable of the good Samaritan to a lawyer wanting to know how to ‘inherit eternal life’. What does this context add to your appreciation of the parable? How might acting more mercifully, as the Samaritan does, help us in the way that we live our lives, and draw us closer to God?
4. For Richard, a neighbour is a person, or people, in need. Helping such people is neighbourly, as it ‘answers God’s call for Christians to promote cultures of safety’. Who are the people in need in your area, in your country and in this world?
5. Richard’s fifth paragraph calls on churches to ‘remember, reflect and respond to racial justice issues’, and he suggests ways of doing this (in the fifth and sixth paragraphs). What actions can you take to, as Richard suggests, ‘put racial justice back on the Church’s agenda’? Why is this important?
6. Jesus ends his parable by asking us to ‘Go and do likewise.’ What one action can we take today, to fulfil God’s command?

For further reflection: ‘He has told you, O mortal, 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?’ Micah 6:8

Prayer: Thank you, Father, that we live in a world where people can help us out in our times of need, and where we can help others in their times of need. Forgive us for the occasions we have put barriers between ourselves and our neighbours, and help us to break through them with love and justice. Amen.

