

Sermon: Who is my neighbour?

Reading: Luke 10:25–37 (The parable of the Good Samaritan)

Introduction

When Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbour?” He responded with a story. A story about a man left battered and broken by the roadside, ignored by those who should have stopped, and finally helped by a stranger who had every reason to pass by.

In telling this parable, Jesus turned the question back to us: What does it mean to love our neighbour?

Today, we face that same question as we look at the growing number of people in our communities who are without a safe, stable home.

Homelessness in our time

Across towns and cities in this country, more and more people are finding themselves without secure housing. Some sleep on the streets, others are hidden from view – living in hostels, temporary accommodation, or moving from sofa to sofa. Families, young people, and even children are caught in the cycle of homelessness.

It can feel overwhelming. We may wonder, “What difference can I make?” But the Good Samaritan reminds us that compassion begins with one act of mercy, one person seeing another as neighbour.



Seeing as Christ sees

The priest and the Levite in the parable walked by on the other side. Perhaps they felt too busy, too afraid, or thought someone else would help. The Samaritan, however, stopped. He saw the man's need and responded with care, generosity, and practical support.

Jesus calls us to see people as He sees them – not as problems to be solved or statistics to be managed, but as beloved children of God. Each person without a home carries a story, a hope, and a God-given dignity.

Faith in action

As Christians, we are invited to respond with both prayer and action. Prayer opens our hearts to God's compassion, aligning us with His love for those on the margins. But prayer also moves us outward, calling us to act.

- We can support local charities and organisations offering practical help.
- We can be advocates, raising awareness of homelessness in our communities.
- We can show kindness—listening, speaking with respect, and remembering that even a simple act of care reflects Christ's love.

In small acts, God works great change.

Conclusion

The parable of the Good Samaritan ends with Jesus saying, "Go and do likewise." That command still speaks to us today.

May we be people who see those who are struggling, who refuse to walk by, and who show God's love in both word and deed.



A prayer

Let us pray.

God of compassion, we lift before you all who are without a safe place to call home.

For those sleeping on the streets, for families in temporary accommodation, and for everyone living with uncertainty – bring comfort, strength, and hope.

Stir in us the heart of the Good Samaritan, that we may not pass by, but offer our love in action.

Bless the work of organisations, churches, and individuals who reach out in your name.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Homeless Charity provides tailored grants to homeless people in England – helping over 3,000 a year rebuild their lives.

www.churchhomelesscharity.org.uk

