

Broken – Week 2

Act on Poverty

Ask Ahead: a question to consider before this session

Who in your life has been a neighbour to you? What did they do to help you?

Scripture Reading: Luke 10.25-37



An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Reflection:

Listen In: Stef Benstead, Disability Activist (8min)

In this audio resource you can hear disability activist Stef Benstead give a powerful personal account of the judgement that can come along with experiencing poverty and needing to use the benefit system. Stef discusses the daily struggles people with disabilities face as they navigate broken systems.

Listen In: Father Osvaldo Concepción Marte, SJ, Centro Montalvo (6 min)

Hear Father Osvaldo talk about the work of Centro Montalvo, the social action organisation for the Society of Jesus in the Dominican Republic. Father Osvaldo says that work for social justice

is an 'imperative of the faith'. In knowing Jesus, we know we need to act to help others. He refers to a 'See, Think (or Judge), Act' approach in Latin American Christian thought.

Get Inspired: Three churches creating places of welcome (5 min)

This short film invites you to hear from three churches from across the country who are responding to their contexts by creating places of welcome for those who have experienced exclusion. Get inspired by:

- Revd. Chris Minchin from the Benwell and Scotswood Team, a group of Church of England parishes in the West end of Newcastle.
Deacon Janet Jenkins from Trinity Methodist Church in Clacton-on-Sea.
- Deacon Tim Coleman from Halton Trinity Methodist Church in Runcorn.

Discussion Topics

1. Have you or someone you know experienced disability? Does Stef's experience resonate with you?
2. Stef suggests that we may feel more comfortable with 'charity' than with 'justice'. Do you agree?
3. Look again at the story of the Good Samaritan. What does the Samaritan see? What does he think? How does what he sees and thinks lead him to act?
4. As we approach a General Election this year, what is the church's role in calling for compassion from those in power that recognises and affirms the human dignity of all people?

Closing Prayer - The Church Action on Poverty prayer

Holy Trinity, you give dignity to all

Remind us that we all are treasured by you

Loving God, you lift up the lowly

Remind us of those among us whose value is not seen

Jesus Christ, you bring good news to the poor

Remind us to reach out for justice for all

Holy Spirit, you free the captives, you challenge and inspire us

Empower us to build a society where everyone belongs. Amen.