

Love Respects Everyone
Sermon Series: Are You A Good Neighbor?
Next Steps Devotional Guide
September 4, 2022
Pastor Kelly Stanley

These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. Take time with each section. Spread this devotional guide out over days, even the next week so that you can really reflect, meditate, contemplate, and pray. Use your sermon outline's points, Scriptures and Bible to supplement this personal devotional guide:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5a in your sermon notes as well as the explanation for the Geek New Testament words translated as "*rude*" and "*does not demand its own way*." All of us have met people who are obnoxious, harsh, disrespectful and "*it's their way or the highway*."
 - a. Many people today have no respect for others. We see this in their language, their attitude and their behavior. In latest polls, the majority of Americans feel that rudeness and disrespect are on the rise. Civility has been replaced with crazy. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:32, "*Be kind to one another . . .*" (NLT). When have you experienced rudeness and disrespect and how did you handle it? When have you been rude and/or disrespectful and what were the results?
 - b. Psychologists say that when people are rude and/or disrespectful are revealing what they really think and feel about themselves. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
 - c. Take your Bible and read Jesus' words in Matthew 7:12. If you are not in a good mood or stressed out or emotionally upset for whatever reason, according to Jesus how are you still to treat others?
2. Read Leviticus 19:32, 1 Samuel 2:12-13, 1 Peter 2:17 and Matthew 25:40 in your sermon notes.
 - a. Jesus makes it very clear that if we are rude and disrespectful to anyone, we are being rude and disrespectful to Him (God). Does this impact how you will treat people in the future?
 - b. In the past, the young stood up when an older person walked in the room out of respect. Men opened doors for women and pulled a chair out for them when a woman went to sit in a chair out of respect. In the South, in the past children were taught to say, "*Yes sir, no sir*" and "*Yes Mam*" or "*No Mam*." Do you think this loss of teaching children manners and respect is helping or hurting our culture? Why?
3. When it came to people, especially those considered as outcasts (ex. lepers, those demon possessed, those sick, tax collectors, even children and etc.), Jesus treated them with respect. It was the Jewish religious leaders who treated this people with rudeness and disrespect. This ticked Jesus. People want to know they matter to us, especially those who are different from us or whose lifestyles are different. Do people, especially those whose lifestyle is different from yours, feel better or worse after they have been with you? Explain.
4. Read Luke 7:36-38 in point #1 in your sermon notes. This woman was probably a professional prostitute. She poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. Read the definitions of the Greek New Testament words translated as "*kissing*" and "*wet*" from your sermon notes. What do you think was her attitude in doing this and why do you think she took such risks to enter the house where Jesus was to get to Him?
5. Read Luke 7:39 in point #1 in your sermon notes. Simon the Pharisee in his thoughts about Jesus, was disrespectful. Jesus knew what this woman's career was, but He chose to see the "image of God" in her in spite of her sinful lifestyle and career rather than just the "image of man" as Simon the Pharisee chose only to see. What is the lesson Jesus wants you and me to learn from the way He treated this woman?
6. Read Jesus' words in Matthew 22:37-40 in point #2 in your sermon notes. Keeping one's word is a matter of integrity and trust. Trust is built on truth. Without truth, there is no trust. When we gave our life to Christ, we in essence gave our word to God to obey Jesus' words in Matthew 22:37-40. How are you doing on keeping your word to God with Matthew 22:37-40?
7. Read Luke 7:40-43 in point #2 in your sermon notes. Jesus knew what Simon the Pharisee was thinking. So, to hold Simon accountable to obey Matthew 22:37-40, which is found in the Old Testament Law in Deuteronomy 6:6 and Leviticus 19:18b, Jesus told a story. Why do you think Simon — who is a Pharisee — an expert in the Old Testament Law — fail to obey this part of the Old Testament Law?
8. Read Luke 7:44-46 in point #2 in your sermon notes. Jesus reminds Simon how he had three strikes when it came to obeying cultural laws and common courtesy laws. Strike #1 was failing to provide water so Jesus could wash His dirty feet. Strike #2 was failing to greet Jesus with a kiss. And strike #3 was failing to anoint Jesus with olive oil as his guest. Jesus was a guest in Simon's home and yet Simon treated Jesus with rudeness and disrespect publicly and

privately (ex. Simon's thoughts). This would have been obvious to everyone there. Simon was more concerned about prostituting his rudeness and disrespect to Jesus and this prostitute than in loving Jesus and this prostitute as his neighbor. When and where have you been guilty of doing the same thing?

9. Read Luke 7:47 in point #2 in your sermon notes. Jesus does the unbelievable and shocks everyone — especially Simon the Pharisee. Simon's own self-righteousness blinded him to his own sin, rudeness and disrespect to both Jesus and this woman. He doesn't think he has much to be forgiven compared to this prostitute. What is the wrong and dangerous with this kind of thinking and why?
10. Read Proverbs 25:14, Matthew 5:37, Proverbs 3:21-22, and Proverbs 28:25 in point #2 from your sermon notes. God does not want us to make rash promises due to stress or pressure. Trust is big to children. When we make a promise they will sometimes hold us accountable to keep our word. We say, "*I promise*" and they will ask: "*Cross your heart and we cross our heart?*" We make the sign of crossing our heart. Then to make sure we are being truthful they ask: "*Hope to die?*" and we go, "*Yes.*" Then as if they still do not trust us completely, they ask: "*Stick a needle in your eye?*" And say, "*Yes.*" Why do you think children go through such an elaborate attempt to be convinced we are telling the truth to them?
 - a. God always keeps His Word to us. Always. Take your Bible and read Genesis 2:15-17. Adam and Eve had it made. They lived in a sinless and perfect world. The Bible says in Genesis 2:8, it was common for God to come in the cool of the evening to talk to Adam and Eve. Why do you think Adam and Eve did not think God would keep His Word?
 - b. Take your Bible and read Genesis 9:11-13. God gave us a promise about not destroying the earth with a global flood. The visible proof is a rainbow. It is almost as if God said, "*Well, since previous generations have not trusted Me and My Word, I will add to My Word a visible sign that is proof I keep My Word.*" But prior to this, God had told Noah to build an Ark because He was going to destroy the whole earth with a flood. Take your Bible and read Genesis 6:9-9:13. It had never rained on the earth prior to the flood according to Genesis 2:6. Noah has never seen rain. Scholar say it took about 120 years for Him to build the Ark. Think of all the put downs, jokes, ridicule, rudeness and disrespect he received. Why do you think Noah trusted God?
 - c. In Genesis chapters 12-21, God promised fatherless and 75-year-old Abraham that he would become not only a father, but the progenitor to a new race: Hebrews/Jews. At the time his wife, Sarah was 65-years-old. In Genesis 15, about 10 years later, Abraham (85) doubts God and attempts to make his servant, Eliezer his son. God stops him. Then later in Genesis 16, about 5 years later, Sarah (80) convinces Abraham (90) to have sex with her concubine Hagar to bear a son. He does this and thus comes Ishmael, the progenitor to the Arab people. Hagar and her son Ismael have to leave due to jealousy by Sarah. Then when Abraham is 100 and Sarah is 90, she gives birth to Isaac. What consequences does this story reveal about what happens we we do not believe God will keep His Word to us and we thus take matters into our own hands?
11. Read Luke 7:48 in point #3 in your sermon notes. Have you ever had anybody in your life who has served you, with no thought to their own needs or desires or reputation? Have you ever served someone like that? And have you ever served anyone whose lifestyle did not honor God with no thought to your reputation and what others thought?
12. Read Malachi 1:6-8, 10 in point #3 in your sermon notes. Are you consistently giving God your best?
13. Read Philippians 2:3 in point #3 in your sermon notes. The Apostle Paul valued others consistently. Do you value everyone regardless of their lifestyle, morals, politics, and etc.? Do you treat everyone like Jesus did? Why or why not?
14. Read Luke 7:49-50 in point #4 in your sermon notes. Jesus saw this woman in a different way than everyone else in the house and everyone saw Jesus in a different way. The men were condemning of Jesus, but the prostitute received salvation.
 - a. Have you ever been ridiculed or put down for being like Jesus with someone who was different or immoral? If so, why do you think this happened and how did you handle it?
 - b. Read Matthew 11:19 and Matthew 9:13 in point #4 in your sermon notes. The self-righteous people in Jesus' day put a label on Him — "*He's a glutton and a drunkard*" because of the sinners He reached out to and associated with in His ministry. Why do you think we resort to labeling like this?
 - c. Read Romans 12:16 and Ephesians 4:2 in point #4 in your sermon notes. In your sermon notes you were given 3 examples where someone was given a bad label but later God gave them a new label. Look at these. What does this tell you?
15. Has there ever been a day in your life when you've started the morning with this prayer, "*Lord, help me see every person I meet today as You do.*" If not, what would change in your day if you prayed this every day?