Citizen Heights Church

21 Days of Prayer

August 23-September 13

Week 1 Love Thy Neighbor

Sunday, August 23rd Love Thy Neighbor

Matthew 22:34-40 NKJV

*But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”*

*37Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the****Lord****your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38This is the first and great commandment. 39And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

As a church we embrace this commandment…loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. Sacrificially sewing into the lives of others, building relationships, reaching out to those who are different than we are, meeting the needs of the less fortunate, and praying for healing of the things that separate us (hatred, pride, racism, arrogance…).

Monday, August 24th Compassion

Matthew 9:36-38 NKJV

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

Compassion is core to the character of Jesus, and therefore necessary for us to lean into. We declare that as followers of Jesus Christ we will show compassion, consistently and fervently, to those who are helpless, to those in need, and to those who suffer injustice.

Tuesday, August 25th Our Neighbors

Luke 10:29-37 NKJV

*But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

*30Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ 36So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”*

*37And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”*

Our neighbors are those with whom we are proximate, whether similar or different, with whom we may or may not be comfortable, even our enemies! We declare that we will greet our neighbors, pray for them, love them as we love ourselves, and that we will pursue justice for those who suffer! We will be those who show mercy…as the Good Samaritan!

Wednesday, August 26th Doing Good

Galatians 6:9-10 MSG

*So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.*

We are God’s ambassadors on the earth, and He has filled us with the Holy Spirit so that we can be a blessing to others. We declare that we are God’s way of blessing the world, of showing mercy and justice, of doing good to our neighbors. We will do good in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our church and in our nation…and to the ends of the earth!

Thursday, August 27th Serving Others

Mark 10:41-45 MSG

*When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. “You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around,” he said, “and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage.”*

Jesus came to serve and not be served, likewise we seek to serve others…our neighbors. We declare that serving others is our calling and blessing! We will seek opportunities, in and out of the church, to serve our neighbors. We commit our lives to serving as Jesus served…sacrificially!

Friday, August 28th Generosity

1John 3:16-18 MSG

*This is how we’ve come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.*

Jesus showed us the ultimate generosity…dying on the cross for us, while we were yet sinners. We declare that we are a generous church and a generous people…even to those who have not chosen Jesus (yet), or may seem otherwise unworthy! We will give to others as we see needs. We will store up treasures in heaven by sowing generously to our neighbors!

Saturday, August 29th Love

John 15:11-13 NKJV

*11“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*

Jesus showed us how to love and commands that we love others as He loved us…promising that our joy will be full! We declare our commitment and obedience to Jesus and will love others as He loved us. We will die to self and lay down our lives to love and serve our neighbors!