

LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR



Taking Down Barriers

Mending Wall

By

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*“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 neighbor as yourself.”*

Luke 10:27 (ESV)



*Your task is not to seek for love,
but merely to seek
and find all the barriers within yourself
that you have built against it.*

Rumi (Persia)

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”



What Barriers Do “Religious” People Make?

- An attitude of (self) righteousness

...Who trusted in themselves that they were righteous... Luke 18:9 (ESV)

...God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' Luke 18:11-12 (ESV)

What Barriers Do “Religious” People Make?

- A conduct of contempt

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” Luke 7:39 (ESV)

What Barriers Might We Have?

- **Attitude Check**
 - Bias
 - Prejudices
 - Indifference
 - Fear
 - Inconvenience

What Barriers Might We Have?

- **Behavior Check**

- Eye contact

- Attention

- Rude

- Snarky

- Angry

Who Do We Identify With?

- **The Self Righteous Religious Leader (Person)**
- **The Repentant Sinner?**



What Is Apparent In The Parable?

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14 (ESV)



What Is Often Missed In The Parable?

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt

Luke 18:9 (ESV)

For Their Redemption

Our Contempt for the Self-Righteous



Who Do We Identify With?

- **The Self Righteous Religious Leader (Person)?**
- **The Repentant Sinner?**
- **Jesus?**



*Do nothing from selfish ambition
or conceit,
but in humility count others
more significant than yourselves.*

Philippians 2: 3 (ESV)

***But now in Christ Jesus you
who once were far off
have been brought near by the
blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is
our peace, who has made us both one
and has broken down in his flesh
the dividing wall of hostility***

Ephesians 2:13-14 (ESV)