

SUMMIT SERIES: SPREADING HOPE
Sunday message from October 9th, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **Our mission: As Union Center Christian Church, we are practicing the way of Jesus by engaging with God, journeying together and spreading hope.**
 - ❖ Summit 3 will be discussing how we live out our “three initiatives” as a church.
- **What does the story of the Good Samaritan teach us about how to spread hope in 2022?**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 10.25-37](#) slowly. What word, phrase or concept stands out to you? Based on this passage, how would you define spreading hope?
- **Do we preach the gospel to solve people's future life or do we pursue social change to care about people's current life?**
 - ❖ How do you see yourself living in and/or wrestling with this dichotomy?
- **All social justice should be founded on love of God and love of neighbor. Love of God should always lead to love of neighbor.**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 10.25-28](#) and [John 13.35](#). What do these passages say about the importance and role of love? What do they reveal about how Jesus interacts with people’s future and present needs?
- **Perhaps we are more in danger of being the priest or the Levite than the Samaritan. We push conviction away by demonizing the priest and the Levite.**
 - ❖ How do you respond to this statement? In what ways might it be true for you?
 - ❖ What “good” reasons tend to get in the way of loving the people in front of you?
 - ❖ Are you too busy trying to focus on God (or preach the gospel) while your neighbors are bleeding out?
- **Jesus steps into our pain and need and meets us right where we are at.**
 - ❖ How have you experienced this? How might Jesus’ meeting us inform how we are to love others?
- **Jesus doesn't wait for you to be perfect before inviting you to partner with him in reconciling the world.**
 - ❖ How might Jesus be speaking to you in light of choosing a Samaritan (on the fringe of religion, not the expert in God’s Law) in this story to model love?
- **Have we uprooted hope in the world because we have failed to love?**
 - ❖ Read [Luke 10.25-28](#) and [John 13.34-35](#) again, slowly. How might you define sin in light of these passages?
 - ❖ Take a moment with God, responding as He leads (worship, repentance, silence, etc.).
- **We are invited to seek the kingdom to come in Binghamton as it is in heaven. Where that gets difficult is that it requires something of us.**
 - ❖ For each of the following steps, take some time to ask God, listen and consider what each looks like for you:
 - 1) Pay attention to the people in front of me.
 - 2) Pay attention to what God has given me (time, talents, treasure, etc.).
 - 3) Use what God has given me to meet the pain of people in front of me.
- **Spreading Hope is found by creating practices where we are present to the world around us in love.**
 - ❖ What might God be inviting you to step into? What changes in values, life rhythms, regular practices?
- What statements or aspects of this message bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on this message.