

the  Venues
Go Deep
Shelter in the Storm
Why Me?
9.24.17

Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? What happened? Have you ever been the stranger someone helped? What happened?

Check out these stats from a study done by Cornell University helping in an emergency:

- 2.5% of people facing a medical emergency in public received help from strangers.
- 1.8% of African Americans received assistance.
- 4.2% of Caucasian Americans received assistance.

What are your observations? How do you explain the discrepancy between the races? How do you explain the low percentages of assistance?

1. Why me? These are my neighbors.

Read Luke 10:25-37

*Who would you nominate for the “Good Samaritan Award” in your neighborhood or church?
What reasons might the priest and Levite had for not helping the man (Lev. 21:1-3, Num 19:11-22)?
What do you think of Jesus’ answer to the religious leader’s question about how to inherit eternal life?
How would the Jesus’ Jewish audience feel about a Samaritan being the hero of the story?*

About which group of people do you need to change your perspective?

*What does Hebrews 13:2 say about the possible identity of the stranger?
The Greek word for “hospitality to strangers” is “philoxenias” - literally love of strangers.
What English word do you recognize in the Greek word?*

Webster defines *xenophobe* as “one unduly fearful of what is foreign, especially of people of foreign origin.

Personal question: Are you more of a xenophobe or a philoxenia?

2. Why me? This is what it means to be a Christ-follower.

*How would you explain what it means to be a Christ-follower?
What are some common ways to understand what it means?
What do you think about this definition? “Following Jesus is being like Jesus”?*

Read Luke 4:18. What did Jesus value? What was Jesus’ mission? How does that help answer the question?

Check out the poem written by Emma Lazarus, on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Here’s the link:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46550/the-new-colossus>

*Would this poem be appropriate on a sign in front of The Venues?
....How about your home?
....How about your heart?*