DIGDEEPER

November 29, 2015 Ephesians 2:11-22 and Leviticus 19:9-18 (<u>Listen</u>) Dr. Richard Rogers

THE BIG IDEA

Our mission is eternal, but we carry it out in an arena that is temporal. These two truths matter greatly in a culture like ours where the gap between the haves and have-nots is everwidening. As people who are exceedingly blessed with an unperishing inheritance, we have a great responsibility to those both above and below us on the socioeconomic ladder. We are called to be generous and sacrificial in our advocacy for others because Jesus has first been generous and sacrificial in his advocacy for us before God.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, coworkers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, <u>tell us about it</u>.)

How do you know that someone cares about you?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- As a Christian, in what ways are you wealthy that have nothing to do with your bank account or material possessions?
- Is there a place you regularly visit where a wide-array of social classes are present? When you're there, what's your attitude like? What's on your mind? And, who do you find yourself interacting with most often?
- Reread Leviticus 19:9-10. How do you make a habit of leaving "fallen grapes" of your money, time, and other resources for those who don't have what you have?
- Is our church a place where classes mix? What about your neighborhood? Your home?

GO DEEPER

- Read the story of the Good Samaritan in <u>Luke 10:25-37</u>. If Jesus were telling the story today, how might he describe the priest, Levite, Samaritan, and beaten man? What labels would he use? Which new character group would you belong to?
- Issues of class division often turn political. Instead of letting the culture and experience dictate our opinion and response, take a look at <u>eight things Jesus expects from us</u> when we encounter those in need.
- Take a look at <u>the work Samaritan's Purse is doing to serve Syrian refugees</u> in the name of Jesus. Pray for these laborers and those fleeing war.
- What's the relationship between our evangelism and our physical care for others in a material world? Watch as <u>Tim Keller offers some helpful insight</u>. Are you deficient in one over the other? How can you better care for people's souls and physical needs?

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Who would benefit from your generosity or advocacy on their behalf? What is one thing you can do for them this week? Ask God to show you, and then go do it.

