

Divine Detours

(Insights from Luke 10:25-37)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 11th, 2015

Key Words from “Good Samaritan Story”:

- *‘to put him to the test’* v25
- *‘do this and you will live’* v28
- *‘desiring to justify himself’* v29
- *‘you go, and do likewise’* v37

What Do “Divine Detours” Typically Involve:

1. T _____

In serving others, the greatest ability is ...

2. S _____

In serving others, Jesus encourages going ...

3. F _____

Regarding the who, how and when ...

4. I _____

Regarding the why ...

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

This Week’s Discussion Guide:

This is ‘week 5’ for our small groups this fall. As we are already almost near our half way point this fall (our last meeting will be the week of November 22) it is encouraging to have so many choosing to meet together regularly for encouragement, prayer and Bible study. In life’s journeys, half way through anything is a great time to gear up to finish strong in what we started. Be sure to encourage each other this week to commit to stay connected and committed to each other for the second half of meeting together this fall.

Getting Started:

This past Sunday was our “Faith In Action Sunday”. Our church organized a service opportunity where we responded to our city’s request to help them clean up and spruce up Ocean Air Community Park.

For those who served Sunday afternoon, what was the experience like for you?

What emotions did you experience while you worked alongside others?

Last Sunday, Pastor Bob mentioned that Divine Detours often include the need for flexibility. Did you serve in a way that was a little or a lot outside your norm? How was that for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read again the classic story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Regarding ‘Divine Detours’ and who our neighbors are, or anything else God reveals to you in the text, what insights encourage you, motivate you, convict you, raise questions for you etc.?

2. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as a way to help explain the Great Commandment - loving God and loving others (Luke 10:27). How does each of the following passages help motivate you to go beyond good intentions and love those around you in practical ways?

James 1:26-27

James 2:14-18

1 John 3:16-18

1 Corinthians 4:20

3. When the Samaritan came along the person in need, Luke 10:33 says that he had compassion for the man. How can we grow in compassion as we engage a broken world filled with broken lives and opportunities to serve others?

4. God doesn't call us to meet every need we are aware of. But, he does call us to be responsive to his 'divine nudges'. Read 1 Corinthians 10:24 and v31. One way that compassion can grow in our lives is becoming better observers and listeners. Choosing to observe what is around us and actually listen to others rather than merely waiting for our turn to talk helps us have tender hearts for others.

What are some tips on becoming better observers and listeners we can all work on?

5. Last week, Bob mentioned that by telling the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus was using him as an example of 'going the second mile' and calls us to do the same in serving others.

When was someone a Good Samaritan for you by going the second mile when you needed them to?

6. Bob mentioned that in serving others, 'the greatest ability is availability'. Like the Good Samaritan who wasn't trained to be a 'medical emergency responder' but did the best he could, when have you responded to a serving opportunity (large or small) that you knew you weren't the most able but you still chose to be available?

How did it turn out?

What encouragement would you give others who feel prompted by God to address a need but are aware of their inadequacies and limitations?

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last week's message, our FIA service project and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we wrap up?