

**Word Notes Sunday 27/11/16**  
**Simon Barrington; Who is my neighbour?**

**Summary** *(read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)*

**Key Text: Luke 10:25-37**

Almost every night we see stories on the news of war and refugees, but there is another story here. 150,000 local churches around the world are getting ready to bless 12M children in refugee Camps and poverty around the world with a gift through Operation Christmas Child, itself inspired by the original operation Christmas child – Jesus.

Our natural reaction to Brexit, Trump, Calais etc is to look inwards, but Jesus encourages us to look upwards, to know and love God with all we have, to be sold out to Jesus. Then we can become the people Jesus wants us to be, then we can truly love our neighbour. Jesus story of the Good Samaritan tells us there are No Limits to the love we should show and dismisses the excuses we might feel justified in holding:

*“It’s their own fault.”* The road to Jericho was known as The Road of Blood, so when the man was attacked it was his own fault. 33% of adults in the U.K. think tackling poverty around the world is a waste of time as it will change nothing for people who can’t be bothered to change!

*“It’s not my job.”* Jericho was a favourite country residence for priests, was he hurrying home for some well-earned rest? On the last day, will Jesus ask us what we did with our paid employment or with our day off?

Or should we break the mould of this world and be Kingdom People? The person you least expect goes out of his way to help. Samaritans – the ones who defiled the Jewish temple, fought bitter fights and whom the Jews despised and were forbidden to share oil and wine by law. We are called to die loving rather than to live hating which involves taking some risk. Let your heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.

**Application** *(this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)*

Jesus didn't just explain our suffering he chose to enter it – fully and unreservedly. Simon asked two questions about that – discuss them now, give examples from the Bible demonstrating the kind of love Jesus showed:

1. What does it look like to love someone “as yourself”, how far should you go?
2. Is anyone off limits, in the eyes of the world, to Christians or to you personally?

Do we know how to respond? When Simon urged us to let our hearts be broken with the things that break the heart of God, what are those things? (hint – you’ll find lots in the Old Testament).

**Witness** *(this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)*

Go and do likewise! What can you do, individually and together? How about contacting one of the following and asking what help they need:

Open Door & Food Bank, Pregnancy Support Centre, Town Pastors, Churches Together Christmas lunch, Hospital visiting scheme.

Or is there something else you’d like to start in Newmarket?