

Living Beyond Our Walls

Part three of the series, "Beyond: Living Beyond Ourselves"

Sunday, November 20, 2022 | Pastor Billy Lile

Luke 19:1-10 NIV

We tend to build walls between "us" and "them."

"All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." (v. 7)

Jesus tears down walls and unites us.

"When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly...⁹ 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'" (v. 5-6, 9-10)

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit." (Ephesians 2:13-18 NIV)

Jesus calls us to go beyond our walls by loving and serving those outside.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)

Now is the time to go beyond our walls.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)