

The Art of NEIGHBOURING

The Fear Factor

Matt Garvin – April 24, 2016

Fear isolates us from each other

Three Kinds of Fear and their Antidotes

1. The fear of rejection and the antidote of “love”

(1 John 4:15-18)

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

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2. The fear of getting stuck and the antidote of “speaking the truth in love”

(Ephesians 4:15)

Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

Three Kinds of Fear and their Antidotes

3. The fear of people who are not like us and the antidote of “seeing”

(Luke 7:44)

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

An apprentice of Jesus can't afford to live from labels.

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Luke 7:36-50 NIV

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14 NIV

Loving our neighbour is core for Apprentices of Jesus.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Have there been any developments in your relationships with your neighbours in the last week?
2. Who has signed up to attend, help or organize a block party at goodneighbourproject.org?
3. What do you think about the assertion that “Fear isolates us from each other”? Is that true for you?
4. Pastor Matt talked about Three Kinds of Fear and their Antidotes...
 1. The fear of rejection and the antidote of “love”
1 John 4:15-18
 2. The fear of getting stuck and the antidote of “speaking the truth in love”
Ephesians 4:15
 3. The fear of people who are not like us and the antidote of “seeing”
Luke 7:44
5. Which of these fears are real for you? Talk about moments when these fears have shaped how you have acted.
6. Share specifically how your can pray for each other.

