

ST PAUL'S / BALDERNOCK

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE – Questions Jesus Asked

Second Sunday of Lent – 1st March 2026

Who is my Neighbour? Beyond Minimum Requirements

Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
in this season of Lent,
as we journey with Christ toward the cross,
quiet our hearts and open our lives.
Search us gently.
Stretch us lovingly.
Teach us again what it means to love You fully
and to love our neighbour courageously.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Read the Scriptures

Take time to slowly read:

- **Luke 10:25–37** – The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- **Romans 13:8–10** – Love fulfils the law

As you read, notice:

- The questions Jesus asks and why.
- Who sees and who stops.
- Where compassion interrupts comfort.

Sit in silence for a moment after reading.

Lent Reflection

Lent invites us to honest faith.

It is a season not just of self-denial,
but of self-examination.

Where have we passed by?
Where have we limited our compassion?
Where have we preferred comfort over costly love?

Lent reminds us:

Christ did not pass us by.

While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Jesus became our neighbour. He crossed the ultimate boundary —from heaven to earth —to bind our wounds and restore us. We do not love in order to earn grace. We love because grace has already come near.

Questions for Reflection or Group Discussion

1. What part of this passage challenges you most right now?
2. When have you experienced someone acting as a “Good Samaritan” in your life?
3. Are there people or groups you instinctively struggle to see as neighbours?
4. Where might God be inviting you to go ‘beyond minimum requirements’ of being a neighbour this Lent?
5. What would it look like for our church to embody messy, boundary-crossing love?

Action for the Week

Choose one simple, intentional step:

- Use the ACORN prayer to see who God wants you to reach out to.
- Notice someone you would usually overlook.
- Allow an inconvenience to become an opportunity for compassion.
- Reach out across a social or relational boundary.
- Pray daily for someone you find difficult.
- Offer practical help without expecting recognition.

Closing Prayer

Compassionate God,
thank You that You did not pass us by.
Thank You that in Jesus You drew near
when we were wounded and helpless.

Forgive us when we have loved selectively
or remained comfortable at a distance.

Give us eyes to see.
Give us hearts that are moved.
Give us courage to cross boundaries.

Make us neighbours in Your name,
so that Your mercy may be seen
in us and through us. In Jesus’ name.
Amen.