Potential things to emphasize:

1. Go Day projects
2. BLESS strategy
3. Be a Light through BlessEveryHome.com

**Bless Every Home**

“Care”

Luke 10:25-37

1. Introduction
   1. The entire nation of China was rocked in 2011 by an incident involving a single two-year-old Chinese girl named Wang Yue. Her family called her “Little Yue Yue.” She innocently wandered onto a narrow, crowded road in Foshan, Guangdong Province. She was hit by a vehicle, in fact, two. Neither stopped. She lay broken and wounded on the road for more than seven minutes.
   2. During that span of time, eighteen people either walked or cycled past the toddler before a scrap peddler named Chen Xianmei, finally stopped to attend to her injuries. The little girl was whisked to a hospital for treatment but succumbed to her injuries and died eight days later.
   3. The whole incident, including the fact that so many people passed by the little girl and refused to render aid, was captured on a security camera. That footage was uploaded onto the Internet and it quickly stirred widespread reaction in China and even overseas. Many commentators saw this as indicative of a growing apathy in contemporary Chinese society. It has been referred to as China’s “good Samaritan problem”—widespread apathy for the hurting.
   4. But we all know, this is not just a Chinese problem. It’s an American problem. It’s a global problem. It’s an ancient problem, because it is a human problem.
   5. Thankfully our human problems have a divine solution. There is a true “good Samaritan” and we will meet him today. His impact can transform even the most cruel or calloused among us into good Samaritans who care for others.
   6. Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 10:25-37. In honor of God’s word, let’s stand. God’s word says:

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” [*Stop right here. A red warning light should be going off in our hearts and minds right now. Notice the question: What shall I do to inherit eternal life? It has often been said, “The difference between every religious system and Christianity is the difference between do and done.” What must I do? But the message of the Bible is not “do”; it is “done.” Jesus has done what is needed for eternal life. It remains to us to repent and receive the free gift he offers*] 26 He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” 27 And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” [*Again, religions say, “Do this, and you will live.” Christianity says, “Live and you will do this.”]*

29 But he, desiring to justify himself *[There’s that flashing light again. Galatians 2:16b says, “by works of the law no one will be justified*.], said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

* 1. Pray
     1. Thank you, Lord, that you are the ultimate Good Samaritan. You saw us in our need and stooped to rescue us. Help us to see that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves except receive humbly and gladly your gift of eternal life. Then help us to “go and do likewise”—giving grace and aid because we have been the recipients of the same. In Jesus’ name, amen.
  2. Transition
     1. Among the things that we can learn from this story is that all of humanity can be divided, at moments of their lives, into one of three categories.
        1. We can be cruel
        2. We can be calloused
        3. We can be compassionate
     2. Let’s take a deeper look at the parable of the good Samaritan and, by God’s grace, be transformed by it.

1. We can be cruel
   1. Introduction
      1. The cruel crowd is found in verse 30
      2. “Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.”
   2. Attitude: “What’s yours is mine and I’ll take it.”
   3. Action: The cruel inflict suffering
      1. They are heartless. They had him outnumbered. They could have taken his things and left him unharmed. But they beat him and leave him half dead. Just flat out cruel.
      2. But cruel people are not limited to Bible times. Our own city is marked by cruelty.
      3. According to a January 6, 2018 article in *The Advocate*, Baton Rouge’s homicide rate in 2017 ranked above that of Chicago’s (38 murders per 100,000 residents in BTR versus 24 per 100k for Chicago). 2017 was the most murderous year in known history for East Baton Rouge Parish. <http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/crime_police/article_ddc03060-f173-11e7-90ea-9f16d6e9dbe8.html>
      4. Let’s have more “lights” than homicides!
      5. There are a thousand lesser ways to be cruel. Bullying. Gossip. Fraud. I have had moments in my life where I was cruel.
   4. Transition
      1. He does not want our attitude to be: “What’s yours is mine and I’ll take it.”
      2. He does not want our actions to be cruel.
      3. Let’s shift, then, from the cruel to the second category. They are not overtly cruel. They are simply calloused.
2. We can be calloused
   1. Introduction
      1. Verses 31-32, “Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”
   2. Attitude: “What’s mine is mine and I’ll keep it.”
   3. Action: The calloused ignore suffering
      1. At about 3:20 AM on March 13, 1964, Kitty Genovese, a 28-year-old manager of a bar in Queens, New York, returned to her quiet residential neighborhood, parked her car in a lot adjacent to her apartment building and began to walk the 30 yards through the lot to her door. Noticing a man at the far end of the lot, she paused. When he started toward her, she turned the other way and tried to reach a police call box half a block away. The man caught and stabbed her. She started screaming that she’d been stabbed, and screaming for help, but Moseley did not stop. He relentlessly pursued her and killed her. He said in his trial that he heard some of the tenants of the building yell down at him, but he said he was unconcerned. “I had a feeling this man would close his window and go back to sleep,” he said to cops, “and sure enough, he did.”  You see, Moseley had killed before. Brutally. When captured for Kitty Genovese’s murder, he was sentenced to life in prison in Sing Sing. He escaped and wreaked more havoc. After another trial, he was sentenced again to life in prison and sits today, as far as I know, in a prison cell in Attica, NY.
      2. 38 witnesses were aware. Over thirty minutes the brutal attack lasted, but no one came to the defense of Kitty.
   4. Transition
      1. He does not want our attitude to be: “What’s yours is mine and I’ll take it” nor “What’s mine is mine and I’ll keep it.” Not cruel or calloused.
      2. He wants us to be compassionate!
3. We can be compassionate
   1. Introduction
      1. Verse 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.
   2. Attitude: “What’s mine is yours and I’ll give it.”
   3. Action: The compassionate intervene in suffering
      1. The Samaritan was lavish in his love!
      2. He is a picture of Jesus.
      3. Once touched by His love, we are to go and do likewise.
      4. This is the heart of Go Day. We want it to be the heart of every day. Making a difference in our communities and city. Use the BLESS strategy.
         1. Begin with prayer
         2. Listen
         3. Eat
         4. Serve
         5. Story
      5. Two projects
         1. Marva
            1. Praying for her neighborhood for years.
            2. Took up the challenge of adopting her neighborhood.
            3. Class rallied to help.
            4. The bags they passed out had a Gideon New Testament, a card with info about the church, candy, and a bookmark with the plan of salvation. They had the neighborhood divided up in different sections and groups of two were sent out with their bags.
         2. Cedarcrest
            1. Longstanding relationship with Cedarcrest. Ramped up.
            2. Mike invited to speak at a rally. Was able to invite.
            3. Yesterday block party.
   4. Transition
4. Conclusion
   1. I said that we could be in one of three categories: cruel, calloused, or compassionate. But thus far I’ve left out one other, important category—that of the wounded, abused, critically wounded man. They left him in the road, “half dead.” We would say, left unattended, he was “as good as dead.”
   2. The Bible describes us in similar terms. Without the Good Samaritan’s intervention, we are “dead in our trespasses and sins.”