

IDENTITY—Beyond Ourselves By Pastor Robby Bradford

(Luke 10:30-37 MSG) Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’

³⁶ “What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

³⁷ “The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

How Do We Live Beyond Ourselves?

*We seek out the needy and lost.

*We are a mission-focused people.

*We put priority on future generations.

What Does It Take to Live Beyond Yourself?

1. It takes faith.

We see it.

(Ephesians 2:19-22 Message) God is **building a home**. He’s using **us all**—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. **Now he’s using you**, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. **We see it** taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

2. It takes sacrifice.

We choose it.

(1 Peter 2:5) You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, **offering spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

3. It takes generosity.

We give it.

(Psalm 112:9) They **share freely** and **give generously** to those in need. Their good deeds will be **remembered** forever. They will have **influence and honor**.

4. It takes urgency.

We do it today.

(2 Corinthians 6:2) For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, **now** is the time of **God’s favor**, **now** is the day of **salvation**.