

Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?



Learning to Love the People
that God so Loved



BE AFRAID!

REAL WORLD MONSTERS

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

John 15:18-19



THEY ARE ACTIVE

Remember what I told you: “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

John 15:20-21



HATEFUL!

**Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters,
if the world hates you.**

1 John 3:13



THE JESUS RESPONSE

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love



THE JESUS RESPONSE

you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48



YUKI

Love those that hate me?

Pray for those that persecute me

Tax Collector (sinner), Pagan

No reward from being a narrow-minded neighbor





MONSTERS!

Loving Those
That Despise You



Meet the Monster

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2



Murdering Monster

Acts 8:54-58

He was fire breathing

He was on the hunt

His goal was extinction of the church



God Humbled the Monster

Acts 9:3-10



God Humbled the Monster

God knew the monster

God did not kill the monster

God blinded the monster



God had a Plan for the Monster

Show Love to the Monster

Acts 9:10-16



Go!

Annanias is afraid



Go!

God saw in the monster a useful instrument



Follow Instructions --- v. 17-19

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



A Monstorous Change --- v. 19-22

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.



**These are the People
in our “Neighborhood”**

God Said Love Them!

