

**Message: “The Challenge of Building a Village Part 2”, Week 4 of
“Challenges Series”, presented by Rev. Kristen Lowe on 10-09-2016 at
Crossroads United Methodist Church, Waunakee, WI.**

Jesus is teaching about how we are to be in community with one another and how we are to treat those we encounter. He tells this story in the book of Luke, chapter 16 verses 19 through 31.

Luke 16: 19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’

But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

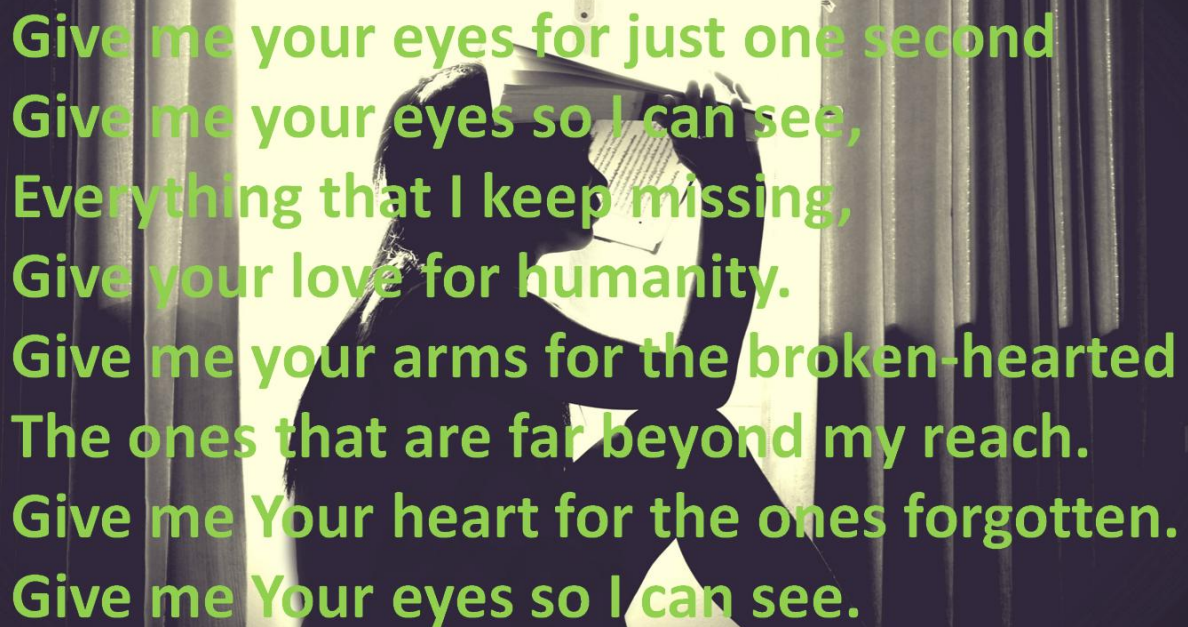
He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Bless the word of God to our hearts. Amen.

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We are called to be a community!

Give me your eyes

A silhouette of a person sitting on a chair, reading a book, with green text overlaid on the image. The person is positioned in front of a window with curtains, and the light from the window creates a strong backlighting effect, silhouetting the person and the book. The text is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font and is centered over the image.

**Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see,
Everything that I keep missing,
Give your love for humanity.
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten.
Give me Your eyes so I can see.**

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Breaking down walls



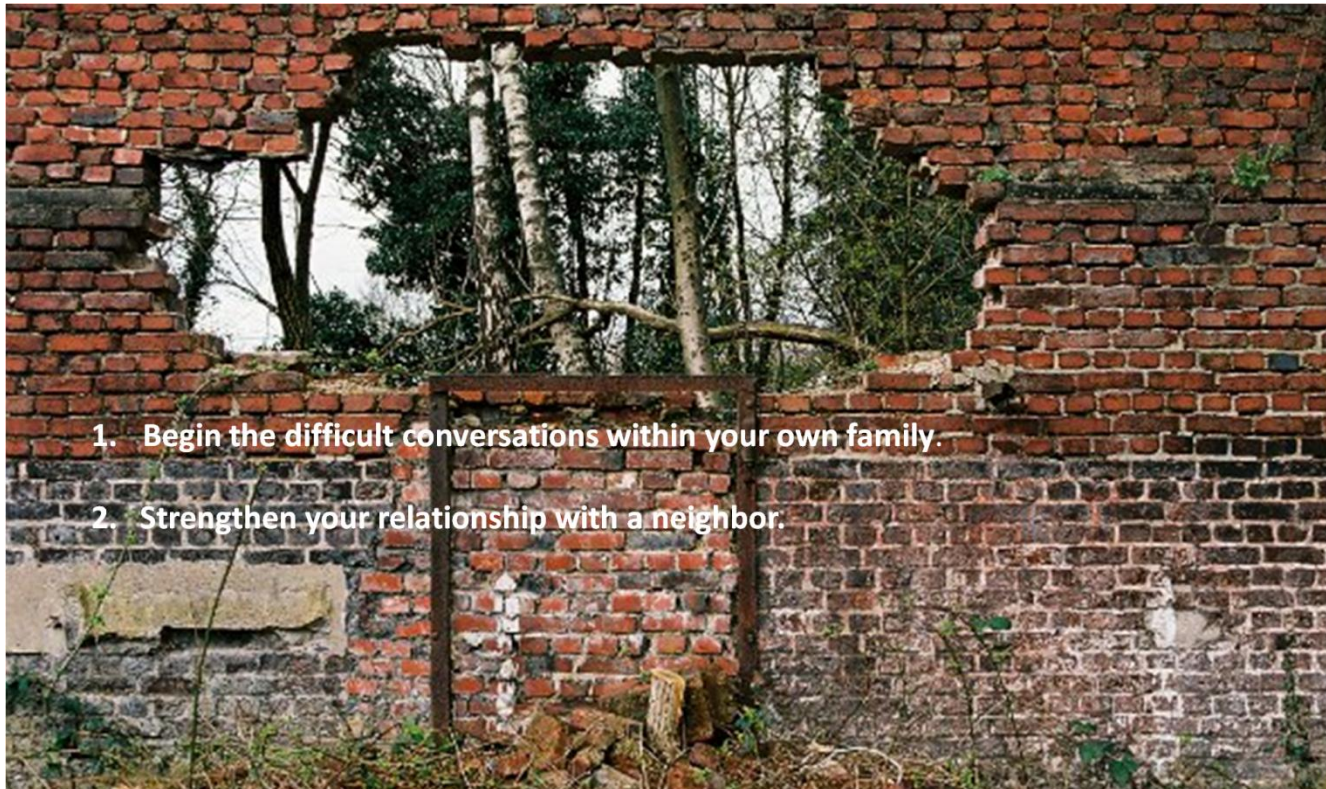
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Begin the difficult conversations with your own family



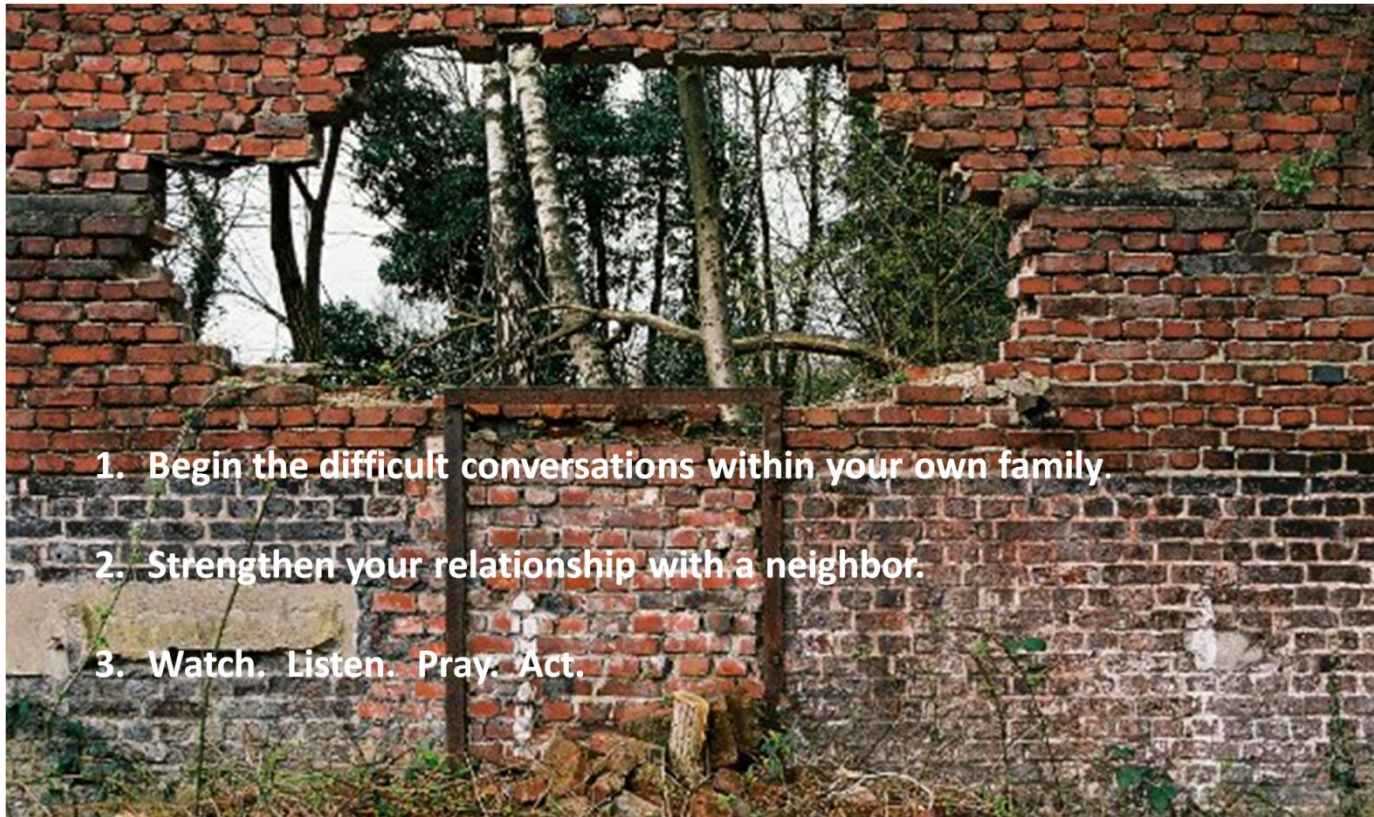
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Strengthen your relationship with one neighbor



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Watch, Listen, Pray, Act



Watch for opportunities around you:

Give me your eyes so I can see.
Everything that I keep missing,
Give your love for humanity.
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted,
The ones that are far beyond my reach.

Excerpt from “Give Me Your Eyes” by Brandon Heath.

Listen, Pray, Act.