

Green Eggs & Ham  
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Years ago as a young dad, I would spend hours and hours reading stories to my kids. We wore books out reading them so many times! Dr. Seuss was always a favorite. We all remember "Green Eggs and Ham", right? "My name is Sam, Sam I am....." Sam likes green eggs and ham, but the other character DOES NOT LIKE GREEN EGGS AND HAM! Until at last he tries them and, to his surprise, he DOES LIKE GREEN EGGS AND HAM! The simple message? Try something new, you may actually like it!

One of the reasons that kids love to hear the same stories over and over again is because they are always learning new things! Another reason that kids love to hear the same old stories again and again is because there is great comfort in being reminded that some things never change...

It's the same with God's Word. We enjoy hearing the same stories over and over again, to both learn new things and also to be reminded that the truth of God's word never changes.

You have probably heard the parable of the Good Samaritan hundreds of times. A man comes to Jesus and asks the Lord, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus invites the man to answer his own question, to which the man says, "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." Jesus commends the man on his correct answer, but the man still desires to "justify himself," so he asks Jesus the question, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answers the question with the parable of "The Good Samaritan." (Luke 10:25-37)

What's the old truth that we already know? It could be "the golden rule." Or "be kind to people even if they are not kind to you." That is true, but I think that Jesus is always trying to teach us something new...

The new teaching that Jesus brings us is a call to repentance so that we can be healed by The Good Samaritan, Jesus! The real lesson is that I am NOT always acting like a neighbor and that is sin! The new lesson is that the only person who ALWAYS acted as a true neighbor and treated others with love was Jesus! The Good News is that Jesus is the Good Samaritan! You and I are the man beat up alongside the road, suffering from our own sin. Jesus comes along and binds up the wounds of our sin. Jesus pays the price of our healing with His own blood.

So now what do we do? We follow the Good Samaritan and act like a neighbor to others. We don't ask the question, "Who is my neighbor?" We simply become a neighbor to EVERYONE we meet. We share the hope and the healing balm of the love of Jesus, The Good Samaritan.



