



Lonely Loved

Sunday, June 24, 2018

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Stepping Stones Community Church

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone..." **Genesis 2:18** NLT

1. Loneliness on the rise

- **Breakdown of families**
- **Increased mobility**
- **Heavy workloads**
- **Rise of social media**

³ *Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. ⁴ Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died..."*

¹⁰ *Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."* **1 Kings 19:3-4, 10** NLT

2. How can we love the lonely?

- **Love with touch**
- **Love by listening**
- **Love with time**

² *Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."³ Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.* **Matthew 8:2-3** NLT

¹⁷ *He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."¹⁹ "What things?" Jesus asked... **Luke 24:17-19** NLT*

³⁵ *Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. ³⁶ Later Simon and the others went out to find him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."³⁸ But Jesus replied, "We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came."* **Mark 1:35-38** NLT

Next Steps:

- Re-read today's Bible verses
- This week I will reach out to a friend: _____
- Commit to love my neighbors who are struggling with loneliness by _____
- Commit to connect with God like Jesus did
- Pray for me as I struggle with relational poverty
- _____