

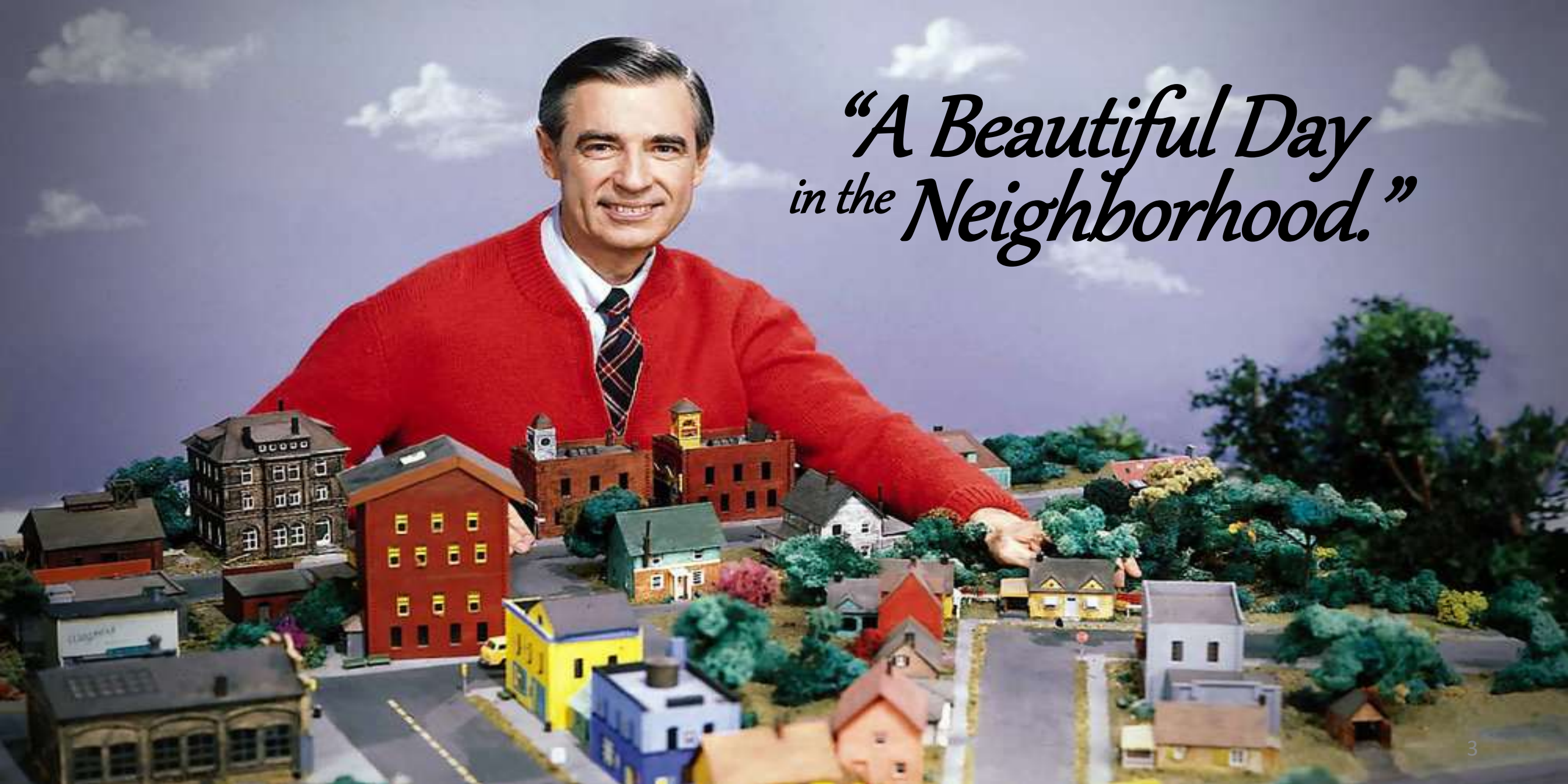
*Expressions  
of Good  
Pt. 5*



*A Tov  
Church Loves  
And Cares For  
People!*



*“A Beautiful Day  
in the Neighborhood.”*





Jesus Also Was Clear About  
How We Should Treat The People  
In The Neighborhood.



## Mark 12:28-34a (NIV)

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*



*The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*There is no commandment greater than these."*

*"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

*When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*



# Jesus' View Scriptures' Priorities Was Not New.

## It Was Always Love God And People.

- He quotes two passages from the Torah, Deuteronomy 2:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18.
- There were hundreds of commandments, so it was natural to summarize and even prioritize.
- The Ten commandments are themselves a summary.
- These two represent a summary of that summary.
- They are also in line with the prophets who said that some commands are more important than others as we see in Hosea 6:6 and Micah 6:6-8.



## Hosea 6:6 (NIV)

*For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and  
acknowledgment of God rather than burnt  
offerings.*



## Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)

*With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*



Our Love For God Is Always First!

However, That Love For God,  
Can Never, Legitimately, Be Separated  
From Our Love For People.



# Shammai and Hillel





# 1. We See People As Image Bearers Of God.

*Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves...”* Genesis 1:26a (NLT2)

- Colossians 1:15 says Christ was the visible image of the invisible God. He is our template of God’s image.
- Romans 8:29 says Christians were chosen to *become like his Son*, and are being *transformed into his glorious image*, by the Spirit, 2 Corinthians 3:18.
- We treat people the way Jesus treated people, as those who have potential beyond their sinful condition.



# Jesus And The Samaritan Woman

- He engaged her, though culturally inappropriate. She's a Samaritan, he's a Jew; she's a woman, he's a man.
- He saw her as a person with a past. *We all have one.*
- He saw her as a person with a present. *We all live in it.*
- He saw her as a person with a potential. *We all have it.*
- He saw her as a person needing what only he had.
- He told her who he was.
- This woman became an evangelist by telling about her encounter with Jesus.



## John 4:28-30, 39-42 (NLT2)

*The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him.*



*Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”*



## 2. Treat People As People

- People are not simply “family units or giving units.” They aren’t just “another name and another number.”
- In a church of Tov, the goodness of God is modeled and people are cared for. If you are sick, someone notices and checks on you, not because of a program but, because they know you and have a relationship with you.
- It is modeled by the leaders, but practiced by everyone.



### 3. People Are Enfolded Into The Community.

- The church is not people living in isolation; they are living in relationship, in community.
- A community is a place of belonging.
- What does it mean to belong? How does one get from isolation to belonging?
- It starts with your name! “Cheers” – *“people want to go where everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came...”*



# It Goes Beyond Knowing Your Name.

- It's sharing our lives and stories with each other.
- It's welcoming others in our homes and eating together.
- It's learning one another's hopes and dreams so we can consider one another in our decisions.
- It's noticing and acting when people are not treated with the Goodness that is of God.
- It's taking the time to enfold them into a circle of relationships that, eventually, become a spiritual family.



## 4. It's Treating People As Brothers/Sisters

- The most common words used in the New Testament for Christians are “brothers and sisters” not church. It occurs 127 times in the NLT. Also, “Brother” and “Sister” are used individually.
- “Brothers” is vastly used gender neutral, male/female.
- Paul writes to Philemon about his run-away slave, Onesimus, and encourages him to treat him as a man and brother, rather than just a slave. (Philemon 1:16)
- 1 Timothy 5:1-2 says treat an older believer as a father or mother and younger ones as brother or sister.



# Old Status Symbols No Longer Applied.

Galatians 3:26-29 (NLT2)

*For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.*



# In Healthy Sibling Relationships, We

- Protect one another.
- Care about one another.
- Look out for one another.
- Want the best for one another.
- Believe and Trust one another.
- See one another as we are and love each other anyway.



## 5. Look At People The Way Jesus Did.

- The Gospels use the word *compassion* to describe how Jesus looked at people.
- Each time the Gospels describe the *compassion* of Jesus, they also tell us what he did.
  - He healed, cured, cleansed, taught, and shepherded.
  - Paul had this same feeling toward others.



## 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 (NLT2)

*When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, the Lord opened a door of opportunity for me.*

*But I had no peace of mind because my dear brother Titus hadn't yet arrived with a report from you. So I said good-bye and went on to Macedonia to find him.*



# Colossians 1:28 – 2:2 (NLT2)

(Notice The People-oriented Words And The Passion.)

*So we tell others about Christ, **warning** everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. That's why I work and **struggle** so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.*



*I want you to know how much I have agonized for you  
and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other  
believers who have never met me personally.*

*I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong  
ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence  
that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is  
Christ himself.*



# Let's Be Clear. Weekly Assignments Cannot Be A One-And-Done Deal!

Let's treat people as Jesus did, with a past, a present and a potential, then love them, welcome them, and enfold them into our lives, and this family of believers.