



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

Love Your Enemy? **Based on Luke 6:27-31**

Mr. Rogers
Mr. McFeely
Larry
Moe
Curly

Matt S.
Toby
Zach
Ryan
Oliver

Setting: A parody of PBS show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood". Show begins with Fred Rogers entering, singing his song "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood".

Mr. Rogers: *(Enters, hangs up coat, puts on cardigan, and changes shoes and sings...)*

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beauty wood,
A neighborly day for a beauty.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

I've always wanted to have a neighbor just like you.
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with
you.

So, let's make the most of this beautiful day.
Since we're together we might as well say:
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

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Won't you be my neighbor?
Won't you please,
Won't you please?
Please won't you be my neighbor?

Mr. Rogers: *(Picks up a heart.)* Hi Neighbor! Raise your hand if you know what this is? That's right. This is a heart. It's a very pretty heart, don't you think? It makes me smile just to look at it. But it makes me kind of sad too, because, it used to play music and it doesn't any more.

Mr. Rogers: *(Knock on door.)* Oh, there's someone at the door. I wonder who that could be. Follow me, and we'll see. *(Motions to follow him.)*

Mr. McFeely: Hello Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Rogers: Why, if it isn't Mr. McFeely of the Speedy Delivery Messenger Service.

Mr. McFeely: Speedy Delivery. That's me.

Mr. Rogers: And you have three friends with you?

Mr. McFeely: Jesus has his Church. I have my trainees: Larry, Moe, and Curly. They're learning the job. Can you boys give Mr. Rogers his valentine cards?

Larry: Hey, gimme them cards. *(Reaches for bag of cards held by Moe, but knocks bag on floor. Curly bends over to pick them up, but Moe kicks him in the butt.)*

Moe: Keep your paws offa my mail, ya knucklehead.

Curly: Ouch. Why I oughta'. *(Two fingers to Moe's eyes, who catches them with hand. He tweaks Curly's nose.)*

Larry: See this fist?

Moe: Yeah. *(Hits fist, which revolves and hits Moe on head.)*

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- Mr. McFeely: Guys, stop it! (*Reaches over and gives Mr. Rogers the sack of mail.*) Here, it's all yours.
- Mr. Rogers: Well that's very nice.
- Mr. McFeely: So what's that you have there, Mr. Rogers?
- Mr. Rogers: Oh, it's a heart. It used to be a music box that played pretty music, but then it broke.
- Mr. McFeely: So it's a broken heart, huh? And you can tell...
- Mr. Rogers: Because it doesn't play sweet music anymore.
- Mr. McFeely: You know, Mr. Rogers, that reminds me a lot of a devotion I was reading this morning from Jesus' words in Luke 6:27-31.
- Mr. Rogers: How does that go, Mr. McFeely? I bet you have that memorized, don't you.
- Mr. McFeely: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."
- Moe: I got a better idea, "Hate your enemies, hate those who hate you, curse those who curse you, and seek vengeance on those who mistreat you."
- Mr. Rogers: That's exactly what most of us do by nature, Moe! It's sort of "the three stooges" approach to Christian witness. And we wonder why it doesn't work.
- Larry: Well, I thought we were supposed to just love our neighbors—you know, the ones that are nice to us or think like us.
- Curly: Yeah, and tolerate those other people.
- Moe: Or maybe just pray that they become more like us, so then we can love them.
- Mr. Rogers: So recreate them in our image, huh? That's an awful shallow form of love, don't you think? I think Jesus

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meant something a little more authentic and radical.

- Larry: But if you love your enemy, do good to him, and bless him, aren't you just begging for more abuse and persecution?
- Curly: Think about it, Mr. Rogers. If you pursue that approach to love, you're in for a lot of torn sweaters and scuffed up hush puppies.
- Mr. McFeely: Exactly, and that's why Jesus was teaching a radical concept: radical for 1st century Jews and just as radical for 21st century Americans. In his case, it wasn't torn sweaters and scuffed hush puppies—He freely gave his life. Think about those verses: To "do good" meant "action." To "bless" meant "attitude" and to "pray" meant "intercession."
- Mr. Rogers: It can't just be words. It has to be action and attitude too, and sometimes action that causes us to swallow our pride, risk harm, and serve others in meekness, not just prideful preaching.
- Mr. McFeely: Christ demonstrated the ultimate. When he found Pharisees, he let them have it. When he found sinners, he didn't just pray for them, he partied with them. When he saw enemies, he didn't just pray for them, he died for them.
- Mr. Rogers: And was there more to your devotion, Mr. McFeely?
- Mr. McFeely: Jesus goes on to give three specific, concrete examples of what he meant, so people wouldn't be tempted to think he was just speaking in metaphors. First, if someone strikes you on one cheek...
- Larry: Hit him back even harder!
- Mr. Rogers: No, he said turn to him the other also.
- Mr. McFeely: Second, if someone takes your coat...
- Moe: Strike him on his left cheek?

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- Mr. Rogers: No, do not stop him from taking your shirt, too.
- Mr. McFeely: Third, give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you...
- Curly: Go right up to them and take it back! Tell them to get their own. You earned it, fair and square!
- Mr. Rogers: No, scripture tells us DO NOT demand it back.
- Mr. McFeely: Then he concludes with what in the 16th century people started referring to as "The Golden Rule" to be applied in not always golden situations.
- Mr. Rogers: Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- Mr. McFeely: So we should constantly be thinking "what would it be like to be that person?" and how can I be more sensitive to their needs and thoughts.
- Mr. Rogers: Maybe if we all had that kind of sensitivity and love, there would be fewer broken hearts and more sweet music.
- Mr. McFeely: Well, we better get going, guys.
- Moe: *(To Larry & Curly).* After you my good man.
- Larry: No, no, after you two.
- Curly: Please, I wouldn't think of it. You first...

(McFeely, Larry, Moe, & Curly exit.)

Mr. Rogers: *(Sings closing song.)*

It's such a good feeling to know you're in Christ.
It's such a happy feeling: You're growing inside.
And when you wake up ready to say,
"I think I'll make a snappy new day."
It's such a good feeling, a very good feeling,
The feeling you know that we love.