

“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it’s in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don’t say, “Come back tomorrow, and then I’ll help you.”  
Proverbs 3:27-28 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 3:27-35

I have always been neighborly in some sort of way over the years. In Lakewood, we had staff pastors on one side (which was always fun) and Ed with his big dog Duke, on the other. Of course there was Rusty in back of us, he was always grinding metal late at night or welding and making our lights dim. I became friends with all of them. I helped Ed take his dear Duke to be “put down,” then eventually attended Ed’s own funeral. The house we live in now is literally a large square-mile neighborhood and it’s been fun to meet and even help folks all over the community. I love the immediacy of intentionality in these verses. Do good - NOW. It’s a plan of attitude and service that people can begin to count on. Whether that’s trimming a tree, chasing down a dog, bringing in the trash cans or just a friendly conversation as you’re out and about. Sometimes it’s crisis assistance, but most of the time it’s just presence. Growing up my neighbors provided safety, they knew my name and even encouraged me. Ask me about Francis, Stan or Louise sometime - I’ve got stories!

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I just clearly hear you say, “and... love your neighbor as yourself.” You do all the work to bring them along in knowing you. I just need to be available to love and care as you’ve asked. Thank you for interrupting my life with rich friendships, called neighbors. May many more accept the invitation of - “won’t you be, please won’t you be.... my neighbor.”

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root