

Sermon. August 4, 2019. Alternate Ending.

It used to be that a pastor could write a sermon on a Tuesday afternoon for the following Sunday. Then it became that the pastor might have to change the sermon on a Friday or Saturday afternoon or evening depending on what catastrophic thing happened. Now, us pastors have to rewrite our sermons on a Sunday morning, sometimes only moments before the service begins because of another act of violence, racism, and hatred. Over the past 24 hours, there were two shootings. Now I can only speak to what has been said on the news up to about 9:15 this morning...I told you sometimes we write up until the last

few moments...but 29 people have been killed by two people. 20 people in El Paso, Texas by a man who allegedly drove almost 600 miles to the border town to kill people that were “not white.” The other 9 were killed at a popular downtown area in Dayton, Ohio around 1 am.

This is insane! I had prepared this sermon over the past week and thought that a pastor about loving our neighbor would be easy to write, easy to preach, even easier to hear, but then this happens...again. Sometimes it isn't enough to preach a sermon to “the choir” as the folks who are sitting here who hear me preach week in and week out. You know mainly what I believe.

You know how I feel about certain things and topics. You know that I preach a message of love for all, but that doesn't seem to be enough.

Let us make our ministry about more than just "talking about loving our neighbor" because there is more to ministry than talking about it. Share the love of God. Share the message of the sacrifice and love of Christ. We cannot just talk about loving our neighbor. One of my pastors growing up for end many of her sermons in this way: Think about it...prayer about it...and for God Sakes! Do something about it. May it be so.

And may I never have to preach another sermon like this again.

Amen.