

A man called Norman – (love your neighbor as you love yourself)

Movie opens with kids sneaking up to this strange mans house on Halloween night. He is a recluse and people only catch a glimpse of him at random times. Everyone is scared of him and tell stories.

Mike saw him around town but never talked to him until one day he was digging in the yard. He looked across the street in a dilapidated house, that should have been condemned. Out came old weird Norman who walked around and mumbled to himself. They made eye contact when Norman raised his hands and yelled something as he ran toward Mike. Then he turned around and went back to being angry with his lawn mower.

Mike took a step of faith and replaced the spark plug in Normans mower and this pleased the old weird recluse with a big two tooth smile. God told Mike to speak to Norman while in town at the dairy queen. This was a problem because he was afraid of what people would think. Norman was dirty and repeated all the words Mike spoke. It was awkward. As he began to leave, He blurted out a rehearsed canned invitation to invite Norman to accept Christ (kind of out of a sense of guilty Christian duty) and there was a pause...Norman spoke clearly and slowly when he said, "I've given it serious consideration". He was stunned and silent for what seemed like a long time. Then Mike left and went home.

Mike felt God leading him to invite Norman to certain events like a baseball game and the local fair. On the seventh inning stretch, they stood up and Norman had a big rip in his pants, that's why he wore a wool coat in the summer. At the fair he convinced Norman to ride the bumper cars but Norman freaked out when people ran into him. God revealed to Mike that this is the experience Norman has had all his life when people would talk, point and laugh. It was like getting smashed into over and over.

Eventually Mike went inside of Normans house and looked around. It was awful. Old, falling apart and in need of serious attention. God told Mike to get to work. Walls, floors and even the nasty toilet that leaked. The next step in the friendship would prove to be quite the test. Helping him learn to bathe. Norman said why take a bath? Who would care?

Mike went to give him an old suit and took it to the closet only to find lots of old clothes just like it, where others had given the same left over refuse, not fit for the Salvation army. This would not do. Only a brand new suit just for Norman was the word from God. That's the way He clothes us with His righteousness. So they went shopping. Mike invested time, money, physical work, risk of embarrassment and more to build a lasting friendship.

Eventually when Norman prayed, he said ...“God, if Mike says I should ask you into my heart, then I guess its time to trust in you”

Jesus said to love your neighbor as you love yourself, and as you've done it unto the least of these, you've done it unto me.