



# SERMON NOTES

Week 1 July 17, 2022

“West Side Story”

Proverbs 13:20; I John 4:18; Leviticus 19:33-34  
Matthew 5:9, 25:35; Romans 12:18



## I. Introduction

- A. *West Side Story* is a 2021 American \_\_\_\_\_ film directed and co-produced by Steven Spielberg.
- B. The story takes place on the upper west side of Manhattan in 1957 and focuses on two rival street gangs of different \_\_\_\_\_ backgrounds.

## II. Community

- A. Our \_\_\_\_\_ determine the direction and quality of our lives.
- B. Proverbs 13:20 reminds us that “a companion of \_\_\_\_\_ suffers harm.”.

## III. Fear of the Other

- A. When we live with an underlying fear of ‘the other’, our actions are almost never \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. John reminds us that “there is no fear in \_\_\_\_\_.”.

## IV. Immigrants

- A. Many immigrants experience a tension of not being \_\_\_\_\_ when coming to a new country.
- B. Jesus reminds us that we need to “\_\_\_\_\_ the stranger.”

## V. Peacemakers

- A. Unfortunately, many people turn to \_\_\_\_\_ as a way of settling differences.
- B. Jesus says “Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be called children of God.”

## VI. Hope

- A. We live in a broken world where people make decisions to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
- B. Jesus’ death and resurrection give us \_\_\_\_\_ in this broken world.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 18-23, 2022*

## INTRODUCTION

An adaptation of the 1957 musical, *West Side Story* explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. So, where does it point us toward the Bible?

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### Monday: Luke 6:12-16, Proverbs 13:20

In the movie *West Side Story*, Tony's friendship with Riff led to disaster. We need to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving of all people, but we need to be careful who we allow into our inner circle that we do life with. Is anyone in your inner circle making you less healthy? Making you doubt yourself? Dismissive of your values? If yes, what steps can you take to correct this situation?

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### Tuesday: Acts 8:5, 25; 10:9-28

In the movie *West Side Story*, you see the terrible behavior caused by the fear of people not like you. Even after his vision came three times, Peter didn't fully get the point. Verses 27-28 of the story suggest that meeting a large group of Gentiles eager to hear the gospel was his "aha!" moment. Have you ever had a particular contact or experience that broke through some prejudice of yours, and opened your eyes to God's inclusive mission in the world?

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### Wednesday: Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:14-19

In the movie *West Side Story*, you see some of the difficulty the Puerto Rican immigrants experienced. God told Israel to remember their history as poor immigrants when they were a settled people into whose land others might immigrate. What does this suggest about how God sees people of all nations and races? As God's follower, how can you live out that same spirit in your attitudes and actions today?

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### Thursday: Luke 9:51-56, John 4:4-10

In the movie *West Side Story*, you see where Tony tried to work for peace. In Luke 9, the Samaritan villagers were rude and unwelcoming. James and John reacted as we are often tempted to. "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" they asked. But Jesus said no. Have you ever been in a position either to fan the flames of hatred higher or to lower the temperature and move toward peace? Which course did you choose?

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### Friday: I Corinthians 15:3-20

In the movie *West Side Story*, Tony's death brings hope of peace to the conflict. As Christians, Christ's death brings us hope. Paul was absolutely confident in Christ's resurrection. He saw it as a physical fact, but also as a reality that shaped his own life, inevitable death and ultimate resurrection as well. How does Jesus' death and resurrection give you hope?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Like the Sharks and the Jets, it's human nature to fear people that are different than us. When we fear "the other," our actions are also not very admirable. The solution to acting out of fear is to act out of love. John reminds us that "there is no fear in love, and perfect love drives our fear." And Jesus reminds us that in order to love your neighbor, you need to get to know your neighbor.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) musical, B) ethnic. IIA) friends, B) fools. IIIA) admirable, B) love. IVA) accepted, B) welcome. VA) violence, B) peacemakers. VIA) hurt, B) hope.*