

RADICAL LIVING, PART 1

Scripture used: Matthew 5:13-15, John 3:16-17 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

In the first message from the Radical Living series, we learn that while many people are fans of Jesus, they may not be followers of Jesus. When Jesus invites people to follow Him, He looks for radical commitment. When He called His disciples to follow Him, they left their trades, their livelihoods, their homes, and even those who were closest to them. His invitation to radical commitment is the same today. He does not want people to simply receive His love, forgiveness, mercy and favor; He wants His people to pursue Him, to learn from Him and to walk with Him. However, many people do not follow Him because they are unwilling to give up their loved ones and things, or because they think they are too stained to be loved and forgiven.

Before Matthew was Jesus' disciple, he was a tax collector; a corrupt traitor to his own Jewish brethren. He was born with the name Levi, which revealed that he was in the priestly line of Levites and was meant to become a priest. We do not know what took him off this path, but we do know that when Rabbi Jesus sought him out, he received love and forgiveness that he never thought he would. This radical love caused him to respond radically by abandoning his life as a tax collector to follow Jesus. Radical love can change lives and change the world. Jesus' invitation to us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world will require radical living.

KEY POINTS

Big Idea: To believe in Jesus means to follow Him

- 1) To truly follow Jesus is to live a radical life. Jesus followers are to be in the world, but not of the world. We are meant to be different yet attractive to those in the world, not repulsive.
- 2) John 3:16-17 is a radical passage. It shows God's:
 - a. Radical generosity - "He (God) gave"
 - b. Radical sacrifice - "His only begotten Son"
 - c. Radical love - "For God so loved the world"
 - d. Radical forgiveness - "He did not send Him to condemn the world, but to save it"
- 3) Jesus invites everyone to live radically. Jesus will cause us to prioritize Him greater than those around us. Radical love can change lives and change the world.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - It is necessary for us to admit, "I'M NOT OKAY." Transformation takes place when we acknowledge the stains in our lives. Are there any stains you are trying desperately to hide that you don't think God and others would still love you if they knew?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Jesus' followers are to live radical lives. Which people and things do you find the most difficult to let go of? Is there anyone or anything in particular that you sense God has been nudging you to walk away from?
- 3) **DO** - What would it mean for you to live radically for Jesus? As we head into our BE RICH campaign, we have an opportunity to give, serve, and love radically. We encourage you to do one or all of these radical acts both individually and as a group. See next page:

*“Command those who are rich in this present world..... to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share”
- Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)*

GIVE:

Did you know that if you earn \$33,000 per year, your income is considered to be in the top 1% in the world? We need to learn how to be rich with what we have been given.

Sunday 10/23 - If you are able, you are challenged to give 39.95, which will go towards Cityteam, Columbia Middle School, and Project WeHOPE.

SERVE:

One of the greatest gifts we have is time. We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving our communities in need! Sign up online or at church to serve with one of our 2016 Be Rich partners as listed below

Saturday, November 19 ⇒ Cityteam San Jose
Shift 1: 9 AM — 12 PM (60 spots available)
Shift 2: 1 PM — 4 PM (40 spots available)
Location: 2304 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95131

Saturday, November 19 ⇒ Cityteam Oakland
Shift: 8:30 AM — 12 Noon (30 spots available)
Location: 722 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607

Saturday, November 19 ⇒ Columbia Middle School
Shift: 9 AM — 12 Noon (50 spots available)
Location: 739 Morse Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Saturday, November 19 ⇒ Project WeHOPE
Shift: 9 AM — 12 Noon (40 spots available)
Shift: 1 PM — 4 PM (40 spots available)
Location: 1854 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

LOVE:

In partnership with Mountain View Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Second Harvest Food Bank. The challenge is for you to bring 3 lbs. of non perishable food (approx. 3-4 cans) on Sundays, November 13 and 20 in bins in the church lobby.

Non-perishable Food Items in Demand:

- Canned foods (Ex: chili, soup, meat, fruit packed in juice, low salt vegetables, etc.) – pop-top lids preferred
- Peanut butter
- Low-sugar cereals
- 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes

Please Note: We are ONLY collecting the items listed above. Also, please no items packaged in glass.