

RADICAL LIVING, PART 2

Scripture used: Matthew 6:31-33, Matthew 6:19-28, Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

In the second message from the Radical Living series, Pastor Hurmon addressed everything from the contents of our closets to the size of our TVs! What we value is reflected in the daily choices we have made with our time, money, and talents. He asked us to look at the percentage of giving and saving, how much debt we carry, and how we spend the rest of our paychecks and challenged us to turn our choices upside down from what the world says is the right way to live. Instead, we are called to follow Jesus.

KEY POINTS

Big Idea: Following Jesus is a radical choice & a radical lifestyle!

- 1) My values are reflected in what I value most. What do your bank records say about your choices and the related values they reflect? Where do you spend most of your free time?
- 2) My blind spots matter. To serve God is to serve others, but are you truly aware of needs around you? Beware of the blind spots in your life!
 - a. See - The needs of those around you.
 - b. Care - Enough to be moved to action.
 - c. Repent - Of your self-centeredness and self-focus.
 - d. Act - Do something to help another in need.

You have to decide what your highest value is. Is your highest value making more and more money or growing in Christ-like Godliness? Scripture teaches we can only serve one master.

You must ask, "Am I growing in Christ?" Is your trust in God expanding? Do you see your commitment to "God-likeness" deepening? Is your heart becoming more tender and generous? Or do you still have that heart of stone which Ezekiel spoke about?

[Ez 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.]

- 3) My heart is God's focus What drives change in our lives? The answer is found in 3 parts: a) the indwelling Holy Spirit; b) internalizing the truth about following Jesus; and c) practicing radical generosity in the name of Jesus. Believing in Jesus brings the indwelling Holy Spirit. Moving the main concern of your heart off of you/yourself and placing God as the central focus in your heart is following Jesus. Following Jesus means giving to the needy as well as prayer and fasting. Actually seeing needs around you and then doing something about them is practicing what we call, "Radical Generosity".

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Looking at how you spend your time and what you take the most care of, what do you value the most? What blind spots do you have? If it is not readily apparent to you, ask someone who knows you well.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Can you honestly say that you are growing in Christ? Is your trust expanding, commitment deepening, and heart growing more tender and generous? How do you see it lived out in your life choices recently?
- 3) **DO** - Read chapters 1-10 of Matthew over the next few weeks. As we head into our BE RICH campaign, we have an opportunity to give, serve, and love radically. Today, we are asked to give of our money resources. 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)*

SEE THIS SPECIAL NOTE TO LIFE GROUP LEADERS FROM EVELYN POWERY:

“We recognize that there are needs this holiday season within our church community. As leaders, we encourage you to pray for God’s guidance to identify families or individuals within NBCC or in the community that need our help. Do they need groceries, toys, an overdue bill paid, etc? Please fill out the following form (https://mynbcc.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=398) to identify the needs by Saturday, November 26. On the form, you can also indicate whether you and your team are able to meet needs as well. Once we have received all the needs, we will work with all Life Groups and ministry team leads to ensure the needs have been met. Share this information with your group so that they can all begin gathering supplies needed for the identified families. You might even organize a date when your group can come together and package/distribute supplies for individual families. We will leave it up to each group to lead the specifics of this project.

May God bless you as you bless others during this season! If you have any specific questions about the Be Rich holiday campaign, feel free to contact: Evelyn Powery, Director of Transforming Communities, epowery@nbccbayarea.com, (408) 239-3117”

>>> Even though the form isn’t due until around Thanksgiving -- do start thinking now about who your LG might be able to help! <<<

GIVE:

This is the week to especially focus on GIVING!

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 starting on OCT 30. See the bulletin inserts for more details. This is a GREAT thing to invite friends to participate in together with you!

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. Super-easy, but deeply impactful.