

## RADICAL LIVING PT. 5 - RADICAL FORGIVENESS

Scripture used: Matthew 6:12-15, James 1:19 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

Last week, Pastor Hurmon's message of radical love prepared us for an emotional week following the U.S. presidential election results – one that has been marked by radical hate. There have been many hurtful and angry words from supporters of all political parties spewed across social media, the news, and in some cases, face-to-face. Whether we have been contributors to these hateful threads or have become disgusted with a person (Facebook friend, co-worker or family member) for supporting the candidate who was not our own choice, this is the time when true followers of Jesus must exercise Jesus' command to love one another.

This week, the message is to put that radical love into action by practicing radical forgiveness. Following Jesus involves a heart that empathizes and forgives radically. If we believe the gospel, we are recipients of His love. Jesus is saying to us, "I don't just want you to receive this love, but to be instruments of My love." Loving our enemies and forgiving those who have sinned against us are commands that run contrary to our sense of self-justice. But Jesus did not mince words when He said, "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions," (Matthew 6:14-15).

### KEY POINTS

**The Big Idea:** Following Jesus involves a heart that empathizes and forgives radically.

Jesus calls His followers to move toward love by doing the following:

- **Recognize: Take inventory of my feelings and relationships.** When we come to worship, we bring all kinds of feelings. In worship, God allows us to see ourselves for who we are.
- **Empathize: Care for others even if you disagree with them.**
  - Listening is loving. Listen more than you talk; listen to their pain.
  - You don't have to think like me to care about me.
  - Reconciliation does not require agreement, but it does require understanding. Be moved by their pain.
- **Forgive: Release resentment (anger and bitterness) and the need for "pay back!" How to move toward forgiveness:**
  - Reframe the narrative. When someone hurts you, it's because someone else has hurt them.
  - Remember forgiveness is a gift (to receive and give). Our ability and willingness to forgive reflects what kind of person we are. If you're unwilling, the unforgiveness in your life will cause you to become the very thing you will not forgive.
- **Commit: To healing and not hurting.**

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - In worship, God reveals our heart to us. Has God ever exposed a person you needed to reconcile with during worship? If so, how did you respond? According to Matthew 5:23-24, how does Jesus tell us to respond?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read James 1:19-20. According to this passage, why is it important to "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry?" What does God desire from you?
- 3) **DO** - Read Matthew 6:12-15. On a piece of paper, write down the worst things you have done throughout your life that Jesus has forgiven you for. Reflect on this list as you consider those who have hurt you and/or someone you care for and struggle to forgive.

*“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](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](mailto: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:**

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:**

**This is the week to focus especially on SERVING!**

**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:**

**We are also focusing on LOVING!**

**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.**