

## BE POWERFULLY KIND!

Scripture used: [Luke 10:30-37 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

This week we are continuing to look at the story of the Good Samaritan as a part of our [BE RICH TO OTHERS campaign](#). Pastor Hurmon is building off the prayer “Lord, give me the courage and strength to be kind!” from last week. We’re asking deep questions such as “How do we live a life that makes a difference?” The parable of the Good Samaritan provides a powerful Biblical answer. In acts of kindness, even small ones, we activate and release more kindness in others. Kindness is actually very powerful, especially when it is put into daily practice. In kindness, we consistently radiate love that attracts others toward Jesus. The most powerful example in Pastor Hurmon’s life was great-aunt, who raised him and modeled kindness. She was kind to others in thousands of ways, and raised Pastor Hurmon to value demonstrating the same behaviors.

### KEY POINTS

- 1. Kindness is a power we release into the world.** Sometimes we associate kindness with weakness. We might think a kind person is naive, a pushover, or easily manipulated. This is not at all what it means to be kind. People such as Mother Teresa, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Pope Francis demonstrate the power of kindness as described in [1 Corinthians 13:4 \(NLT\)](#). They are considerate, generous, respectful, and caring without being weak. In fact, their kindness activates kindness in others. People around them are transformed by experiencing powerful kindness and then modeling that same behavior to others.
- 2. There are four principles to powerful kindness.** Jesus told us in [Luke 10:25-28 \(NLT\)](#) that love is the key to eternal life. both loving God and loving others. Practically speaking, this means expressing powerful kindness. These four principles explain how to build a life around kindness.
  - a. Principle 1: Be kind first.** We need to retrain our minds so we always think about kindness first. We should be the first person in any group to choose kindness. We should ask ourselves questions such as “What’s the kind thing to say?” and “What’s the kind way to react?”
  - b. Principle 2: Adopt the value of kindness.** Moses made kindness a key part of the laws that the Israelites needed to follow. [Deuteronomy 22:4 \(NLT\)](#) made it clear that we must be looking for ways to help others. It is God’s heart!
  - c. Principle 3: Notice and care.** Practicing powerful kindness requires that we notice the people around us. We have to build the habit of awareness of others and their struggles. The more aware we are, the more opportunities we have to step in and help.
  - d. Principle 4: Practice unconditional kindness.** The Good Samaritan helped the injured man even though that man was in no position to help him in return. Modern science has revealed a surprising truth: we feel better when we help others than when we help ourselves!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - Kindness is one of God’s core values. We know this because He lavished kindness on us by sending His Son to the world to redeem humanity and defeat death. What is the most recent opportunity you’ve had to be kind? Was it easy or hard to act on that opportunity?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was known as “the bloody path.” Many people were injured on the road. The Good Samaritan probably passed many people during his travels, and he couldn’t help them all. But that didn’t stop him from caring about the one person he could help! In today’s world, it is easy to get overwhelmed with all the big issues: climate change; racial inequality; economic insecurity; and more. By focusing on the one person we can help, we activate the power of kindness. How do you normally respond when you have the choice to be kind? Are you more of a Pharisee or a Good Samaritan (in truth, we often will feel a little bit of both)? What tends to make the difference in allowing us to lean towards kindness rather than avoiding inconvenience?
- 3) DO** - We are right in the middle of our [BE RICH campaign](#). Prayerfully affirm to be powerfully kind by saying “I commit to be rich to others!” and signing up to PRAY for 5 minutes each day, to SERVE on Nov 12th with CityTeam in San Jose ([here](#)) or with WeHOPE in East Palo Alto ([here](#)), and to GIVE \$40 per person (or whatever you can spare) by [making a one-time donation](#).