

Be Courageously Kind

Scripture used: [Luke 10:25-37 NLT](#)

OVERVIEW

Today, Pastor Hurmon started the series "Acts of Kindness" with the sermon "Be Courageously Kind". Not every kind person is a Jesus Follower, but every Jesus Follower should be a kind person. Pastor Hurmon encouraged us to ask ourselves the following: When people think of me, do they think of kindness?

KEY POINTS

1. **Be rich to others** In [1 Timothy 6:18](#) Paul provided Timothy, a young pastor, with instructions on how Jesus followers should be rich in kindness, generous, and always ready to serve. [Ephesians 2:7 NLT](#) gives the reason why we should be kind - so we can be examples of God's incredible grace and kindness. Two ways Pastor Hurmon encourages us to practice kindness in our community is to participate in Be Rich serve days November 12-13 and to use the [Acts of Kindness Challenge Card](#).
2. **Practicing the power of kindness** The story of the Good Samaritan is found in [Luke 10:25-37 NLT](#). An expert in religious law attempted to examine Jesus' character by trying to get Him to contradict himself. When Jesus told the man to love his neighbor, the man asked Jesus a question we should all ask of ourselves, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus' nature is kindness. He is the visible image of God who is love. Kindness motivates Him ([Colossians 1:15](#), [1 John 4:16](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4](#)). Because of this Jesus used this opportunity to teach that *kindness is an act of love and an action of power*.
3. **Tribalism can hinder us from being courageously kind.** Putting ourselves in groups of similar people is a natural human behavior, but violating a principle of our "tribe" and being critical of our own groups can threaten our membership. This threat is often enough to keep us from speaking the truth in love. But Jesus did exactly this when He told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus was a part of the Jewish community. The story tells of a Jewish man who was severely injured by robbers. Two well-respected Jewish leaders walk by the man with little regard for his injuries, but an unlikely hero, a despised Samaritan, is the one who stops and helps the man. Jesus exposes His own people group by making them the unkind people in the story. *He critiques His own tribe as an act of character and act of kindness*. By revealing their blind spots, He is inviting them to be more God-like.
4. **Being nice versus being kind** Jesus knew the difference between nice and kind. *Being nice is when you tell those that you love what they want to hear. Being kind is when you tell those you love what they need to hear*. Courageous kindness requires us to speak out for what is right even if it means losing something that is valuable to us, and being consistent in our character - letting our private self be the same as our public self.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Take some time to pray and ask God to show you areas where you are not being consistent in your character. Have you allowed tribalism to hinder you from being truthful and courageously kind? Have you not been kind to a neighbor because you were afraid of the repercussions that might follow?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - How is God challenging you to be courageously kind? What barriers need to be removed in order for you to stop and help the hurting like the Samaritan in the parable? What powerful acts of kindness do you hear the Holy Spirit calling you to take this week?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us to make room on our calendars to serve on Be Rich weekend, November 12-13. Take a look ahead at your calendar. Are you able to make some time that weekend to serve others? Also, read the Acts of Kindness Challenge card. Select a few that you'd like to practice this week. Commit to doing so by telling one person about your plan.