

ACTS OF KINDNESS: BE LOVE

Scripture used: [Luke 10:36-37 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This is the final week in our series, Acts of Kindness. In our Scripture today, Jesus ends the parable of the Good Samaritan by directing the Jewish scholar: "Now go and do the same." It is indeed what Christians are called to practice: to take Jesus' extraordinary love and translate it into a lifestyle of everyday acts of kindness. Jesus directs us to be the expression of love, consideration, compassion, and empathy in the world. He wants us to perform acts of generosity with our money, time, reputation, and networks. The message today reflects on what sustains kindness as a lifestyle, and one component of the answer is surprise: being intentional around celebration.

KEY POINTS

1. Pastor Hurmon used the story of [Vanessa Van Edwards](#), a psychologist. She is now a very high-profile author and media personality. But she used to experience impostor syndrome. She was petrified with anxiety and fear of failure. When she decided to write openly and lucidly about it, she helped countless others and her career took off. We think of life as a thermometer, telling us when the conditions are not right, outside of the range. Instead we are called to be thermostats, regulating the environment, cooling things down when heated, and warming them when icy. Thermometers are passive, while thermostats are active in changing the environment and making things better.
2. We have to celebrate big moments. Right now is a time of celebration at NBCC as we rejoice in taking kindness to the next level. We have made a difference in many lives, including with schools here and abroad (our partner schools in Nigeria and Guatemala) In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father greets his son's return effusively. The fatted calf is an allegory for the celebration of life versus death, relishing the one who is found after being given up as lost.
3. We must also celebrate incremental progress: the milestones along the way. Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT) calls us to celebrate the sacred day of incremental progress, as "the joy of the Lord is our strength."
4. Finally, we must always celebrate the goodness of God. See [Philippians 4:4 \(NIV\)](#). The verse preceding our Be Rich to Others theme verse, [1 Timothy 6:17 \(NLT\)](#), reminds us that God provides good things in our lives for the purpose of our enjoyment. Being intentional about celebration creates space for us to live a life of daily gratitude, and become a blessing to others. We might not always feel like celebrating, but when we do so, we will be more sensitive to God's goodness and more grateful for His provision in our lives. Celebration and gratitude together give us the sustained strength to be courageously and generously kind.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Did your family have a strong culture of celebration? What things were you likely to celebrate growing up? If your family didn't have a strong celebration culture, what do you think of God's command for His people to regularly celebrate?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider the entirety of the Parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10:25-37, NLT](#). How has God spoken to you through this parable? In what ways do you experience in your life that kindness is not the same as niceness? How have you been challenged to express courageous kindness, deep empathy, or radical generosity as an expression of the kindness that God is calling you to engage others with? How can being intentional with celebration help to sustain a lifestyle of kindness? In what ways can you create space to celebrate (in big or small ways) this week?
- 3) **DO** - If you haven't made a gift to NBCC's Be Rich to Others campaign, it's not too late! You can give at [nbccbayarea.com](#), or by texting "NBCC Give" to 77977. Join us next Sunday in Redwood City, San Jose, or online!