

BE RICH TO OTHERS - PART 3

Scripture used: [2 Chronicles 7:14 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In this final message of the Be Rich series leading up to the Christmas season, Pastor Hurmon reflected on the powerful connection between generosity (in essence, giving of ourselves in a way we are not obligated to do) and healing. This applies to financial generosity, which is why we are mobilizing our community to give to community partners who are doing life-changing work in the Bay Area and around the world as a part of our Be Rich to Others Outreach. However, it also applies to other forms of giving, including giving our attention, empathy, and willingness to listen. When we do the hard work of serving others and loving those who would otherwise be considered “enemies”, we participate with Jesus in the healing of our immediate relationships, our community, our nation, and our world. Next week, Pastor Hurmon will start a series on “What Are We Searching For?” and how the Christmas story ties into our deepest longings.

KEY POINTS

- 1) In every human relationship (including marriage), we must acknowledge the other person’s emotions, as those explain people’s positions and attitudes. People want to be heard, understood, and respected. The context of [2 Chronicles 7:14 \(NLT\)](#) is the dedication of the Temple; God’s people were called to sacrifice and devote themselves to worship in order to be the healing presence in the land that God intended. In our day, the Temple no longer exists, but Jesus made clear in [John 2:19](#) that he is the new “temple” that allows all people to have a place to worship where they are accepted by God. We sacrifice and honor Jesus as the new “temple” of our faith by “emptying our bucket” of anger and unforgiveness daily, through confession (seeking God’s redemptive love), surrender, and being the light in the darkness.
- 2) Sin blinds us. Racism is sinful, as is the view that politics is the only remedy to improve and heal the human soul. God’s love is the only antidote, and the only power that can truly bring people together and unite them in the face of tremendous systems of technology and sociology that intentionally drive division between people. [Colossians 3:13](#) asks us to make allowances for each other’s faults. It teaches us that forgiveness is the greatest act of generosity. It is a straight line to healing.
- 3) Rabbi Nathaniel Ezray, of Congregation Beth Jacob (where NBCC meets in person on Sundays when we aren’t sheltered in place), highlighted the Jewish value of “Chesed”, which is care and love for fellow humans, and a desire for charity and repairing the world. CBJ is happy and proud to be our partner in the Be Rich campaign for local impact. As we model as a community finding common ground to be a blessing to this world, let us ask God to continue to give us the patience, faithfulness, and radical love for others that has the power to overcome barriers of hostility in this world and to allow us to partner with Jesus in the ministry of reconciliation ([2 Corinthians 5](#)).

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - This week is Thanksgiving week! We hope everyone has a safe and joyful Thanksgiving. We acknowledge that there is an element of grief and loss this Thanksgiving as well, whether from bereavement this year or from not seeing loved ones in person at Thanksgiving that we are used to seeing. What are you grateful for this year? Where do you need God to enter into a place of loss?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [2 Corinthians 5:11-21](#). The primary ministry of reconciliation that we are called to is to proclaim the invitation of God to reconcile all people to Himself through the forgiveness offered in Jesus’ death and resurrection. How does conflict between people interfere with this ministry of reconciliation? (Consider interpersonal conflict within a home, political partisanship etc.) How does strengthened relationships between people, especially those within the church, enhance this ministry of reconciliation to the world? The practical work of empathy, patience, and listening is incredibly difficult. We can’t give to others what we haven’t received for ourselves. What do you need from God to be able to be an instrument of reconciliation and empathy from others? Ask God for what you need in prayer!
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us to consider the following questions: “What do you need to confess? What part of your life do you need to surrender?” Join us next Sunday as we start a new message series, “What are You Searching For?” Invite a friend or loved one to this unique message series built upon the real things that people are searching for right now!