



Radical - Part 7 - "Radical Hope"

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 NIV

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Mark 14:6-7 NIV

6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want.

Isaiah 65:21-23 NIV

21 They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;

Key Points

- Love disintegrates when trust is undermined.
- The way of Jesus is modeled in others-oriented, self-sacrificing love.
- Dignity is simply the innate worth of another person. We don't give dignity; we honor it; to honor someone's dignity, we need to see and notice them.
- The despair of poverty must be met with the honor of dignity.
- Poverty isn't first an economic problem but rather a matter of dignity.
- We shouldn't depend on the world systems to bring God's kingdom.
- At the core of God's character is love, and love gives.
- Listening honors dignity. Saying someone's name demonstrates dignity. Trusting another brings dignity.
- Dignity is the lens through which we see redemption. We learn to bring dignity to hard things by bringing grace and dignity to despair by bringing hope.
- It is not about finding things worth doing but finding worth in the things we are doing.
- Serving is offering ourselves to others for their good and contributing to the good of the world around us.

READ

Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17. What does it look like to see someone from a “worldly point of view”? How should God’s love influence the way we see others?**
- **Read Mark 14:6-7. In what ways is Jesus’ statement a concession about the broken systems of this world?**
- **Read Isaiah 65:21-23. How do the decisions we make today shape those that come after us?**

REFLECT

“By the grace of God, I am being mended, and God has called me to be a mender too. Since many threads are stronger than one, God has put me on a sewing team. Day by day, our job is to hunt the places where the world is ripped and bend over the damage to do what we can. Every good deed, every kind word, every act of justice and compassion tugs the torn edges closer together. The truer our aim, the smaller our stitches and the longer the patch will hold. We made plenty of the rips ourselves, and some of the worst ones show evidence of having been mended many times before, but that does not seem to discourage anyone. Mending is how we continue to be mended, and we would not trade the work for anything.” -Barbara Brown Taylor

- **Read the quote from Barbara Brown Taylor. What is our job as Christ followers? How does this quote speak to the church’s impact being seen in a thousand little things?**
- **Complete the following sentence: Dignity is _____. What’s the difference between giving someone dignity and honoring it?**

RESPOND

- **Where do you need to see and honor someone’s humanity? Why did that individual come to mind?**
- **How can you bring value to the places where God has placed you?**
- **How has your perspective and understanding about the heart of servanthood changed over the past seven weeks? What is your biggest takeaway from the “Radical” series and how will you let this truth shape your response to the world around you?**

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.