



## SERMON NOTES

Week 1 November 5, 2023

**"The Bridge Between Our Differences"**

*Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:46-47; 1 Timothy 6:17-18*



### I. The Political Divide

- A. The prophet Micah tells us that God requires us to act \_\_\_\_\_ and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- B. Political disagreement is usually fueled by divergent \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.
- C. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with every single person he ever met about most things, but he leaned in and loved them anyway.

### II. Bridging the Gap

- A. We can disagree \_\_\_\_\_ and love one another unconditionally.
- B. The more politically and culturally diverse we are, the harder it will be to love one another, and thus the brighter our \_\_\_\_\_ will shine when we do.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ is the bridge between our differences.

### III. Rich in Good Deeds

- A. 1 Timothy 6:18 tells us that we are to 'be \_\_\_\_\_ in good deeds.'
- B. Against all odds, the first century church survived and multiplied by embracing the principle of '\_\_\_\_\_ first.'
- C. The whole idea becoming an 'others-first' person begins with a simple question – "What can I do to \_\_\_\_\_?"

### IV. Application

- A. The Be Rich Challenge: \_\_\_\_\_ hour of service in the month of November.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *November 6-11, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

It's not hard to see how divided our nation is in politics, within families, and even in the church. If we want to fix our polarized nation, Christians need to set the example. But many Christians seem to find an exception to Jesus' command to love one another when it comes to people we don't agree with. We are not commanded to *agree with others* we are called to *love one another*.

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### Monday: 1 Timothy 6:17-18

The "Be Rich" campaign is based on this scripture passage. Do you consider yourself 'rich' in the present world? If not, what would you consider as 'rich' in the present world? What is one way that you can be 'rich' in good works during the month of November?

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### Tuesday: Ephesians 4:29-32

If someone reviewed your social media posts, what is the first word they would use to describe you? Is it one of these?

Curious • Funny • Opinionated • Loving • Social

What makes you say that? Do you wish it was a different word?

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### Wednesday: Matthew 5:13-16

In his sermon, Pastor Eric said "the more politically and culturally diverse we are, the harder it will be to love one another, and thus the brighter our light will shine when we do." Do you see the tension created by disagreements on political and social issues more as an advantage or as a problem? Or somewhere in the middle?

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### Thursday: Acts 17:22-28

We are called to love one another even when we don't agree with one another. The issue is not whether I *agree* with someone but rather how I *treat* someone with whom I profoundly disagree. What can you do to take a step toward people who don't have the same perspective as you? Is there something you should stop doing? If so, what?

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### Friday: Matthew 5:43-48

In this passage, Jesus gives guidance on how to treat those who are different. What stands out to you? In verse 48, how would you define the word "perfect" in this context? Growing up, how was it modeled to you to treat people who believed differently than you politically and socially?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Love is the bridge between our differences. Jesus tells us to let our light shine in our world. And if we can love people who are not like us, our light will shine even brighter. During "Be Rich," our month-long generosity campaign, we remind our communities that everybody matters to God. So, we are asking everyone to serve one hour during the month of November. Where will you serve this month?

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) justly, B) life, C) disagreed. IIA) politically, B) light, IIC) love. IIIA) rich, B) others, C) help. IVA) one.*