

Bay City Wesleyan Church
February 5, 2017

=====
Sunday Morning 02-05-2017
Accept the challenge of Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."
<http://bible.com/events/166050>
=====

[Image]
Our theme for 2017
http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg

Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next 12 months all of us in this place, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

WESLEYAN LIFE Magazine
Winter 2017 The mission of the church is discipleship.
<https://wesleyan.life/magazine/winter-2017>

One of the hardest-to-get,
most-difficult-to-live-into,
toughest-to-hold-onto ideas
of the truly Jesus-like life is that
Jesus followers live for the sake of others.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV
Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Are you good for nothing?

Luke 6:27-36 NET
"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other as well, and from the person who takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your possessions back from the person who takes them away. Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

God sets the standard for our giving. His loving, no-strings-attached generosity to all people sets the pace for us.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Do good to those who can't or won't do good to you because Jesus did more for you than you could ever repay.

In a world where donations are made to receive honor or special recognition, in a culture where it's normal to wonder "What's in it for me" and say, "I'll scratch your back and you scratch mine," Jesus challenges his followers to give with no-strings-attached generosity. He urges you to do good to those who can't or won't do good to you because he did more for you than you could ever repay.

How can I possibly make that shift in my thinking and acting?

Ask Jesus to fill you with confidence in his loving care for you.

Start where you are and give more than you have been giving.

Be creative and give something besides money.

Do good to those who can't or won't do good to you because Jesus did more for you than you could ever repay.

Let's make February our Generosity Project Month.

I'd like for our church family to present our support for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission on Sunday, February 26th, in three ways:

- [1] giving financially through a special offering;
- [2] serving by doing something; and,
- [3] food and clothing donations.

Will you join me to pray and ponder how we might commit to supporting the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission?