



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Four Big Lessons

Speaker: A. Redd Sevilla

Scripture: Matthew 25:35-36, Acts 6:3, Mark 16:15, Matthew 11:28

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
(*Matthew 25:35-36*)

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.
(*Acts 6:3*)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation". (*Mark 16:15*)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.". (*Matthew 11:28*)

Sermon Outline:

In today's sermon, Redd Sevilla covered his four most important reflections and learnings, over the past ten years in his role as the Director of New Life's Community Development Corporation (CDC). Redd recently transitioned out of CDC to leading the launch of New Life East, a New Life Fellowship congregation on Long Island.

Do service for One. (*Matthew 25*)

Do for ONE what you hope to do for all. We can all get involved, especially when we just focus on *one*. The call is for each of us to be walking non-profits, to just serve *one* instead of waiting for someone else do this or looking for organizations to step in and do the work. As we step in to help the one, we need to beware of the America Dream. Though the American Dream is not bad itself, it makes no mention of volunteering or participating in sacrificial service. We need to be watching out for the negative influences of the American Dream, such as believing that more is better – needing to work more in order to have more money or to buy a more expensive car or a bigger house. In a life of service, the negative aspects of the American dream will work against you.

Share power with One. (*Acts 6*)

There are many visible disparities in our culture, which we see often. Because of these disparities, many in our society are met with these barriers daily. GMSY (Good for me, Sucks for you) is something that Redd has created to describe these disparities, meaning that which benefits me puts up barriers for you. For many of us, this unfairness and the disparities we see in many sectors of our city won't bother us until we move close enough to those who have been overlooked and marginalized. In Acts 6, we see Peter in this type of a system. Peter shares his power because Jesus did the same with him in sharing power. Jesus comes down to earth and gives up his life for the overlooked, the marginalized, the weak and as a result of doing this, the GMSY switches.

Tell of the One. (*Mark 16*)

We are to tell of the Good News, preaching the gospel at all times – not only with our words but also with our actions. In our current day and age, this is critical because of all the national unrest due to racial injustice, issues surrounding immigration and economic disparities - just to name a few. People are thirsting to hear good news! Know that there is One who promises He will finish the work. Jesus is the One who makes this promise. He promises that all the things that you see wrong in this world today, will be finished and made right.

Trust in the One. (*Matthew 11*)

We need to put all our trust in Jesus as Savior, not ourselves as saviors. Many of us put all our trust in ourselves, and not the One who we can truly trust. There are false masters that come in to replace Christ, where we end up placing our trust. Some of these false masters include success, money, control, comfort and good health. We believe that when we have these things, we will find rest. They deceive us because even though these can be

good things, they *are not* God. They bring us anxiety and fear at the thought of losing them. Jesus came and showed us what a true god was like. He came to give us true rest for our souls.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday A. Redd Sevilla's sermon is the Four Big Lessons I Learned at New Life CDC. Today Redd talks about and shares those learnings and insights. By doing so, Redd gives us a look at what a life marked by service could resemble.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, how were you taught to deal with strangers and the poor. What did your interactions with them look like? What were you taught about them?
3. What were you taught the American Dream was/is? How do you see that aligning or not aligning with what God's purpose is for people?
4. What is something in your life that works well, and you take for granted, but may be difficult or impossible for someone in a marginalized community? What can you do to change that for ONE?
5. Have you been wronged by racism, sexism or economic inequality? If so, what might it look like for you to trust in Jesus to help you heal from those wounds and wrongs that were committed against you?
6. What does it look like for you to trust God, for his promise to take care of you when you are weary and burdened? What do you need to let go of and hand over to Him?