

Sermon Outline

Sunday, May 24, 2020 – It's Also About the Benjamin's

Recap

- We have a chance to be transformed - who God is calling us to be?
- This mo.'s series – Promise to the Plural – God promises are to a people
- American church fused individualism into Christianity -> now is opportunity to change
- 2 wks ago – Read You as Y'All – we should read the Bible as a promise to a community of people not a bunch of individuals
- Last wk – You Are Not All That (On Purpose) – We don't have to have it all because we are supposed to lean into each other (1) get clear on your function/gifts, (2) Visibility≠value, (3) when one part is hurting we all pull together to help where it is needed
- This week – It's Also About the Benjamins

Intro

- Nod to Puff Daddy's 2002 hit "It's All About the Benjamin's" an anthem to bling capitalism best summed up by a line from Lil' Kim's verse – "Get your own sh--, why you ridin' mine?"
- Celebration of people who find a way to Stash .380s in Mercedes and we are not promoting that – however it is a reminder that we live in a country of inequity and that is not a new thing

Exegesis –

- Jewish people always a minority group. Always a bigger tribe trying to take them over - Egyptians in Exodus. Babylonians in Isaiah. Romans in the New Testament.
 - o Jesus is a Jew killed by a criminal justice system quick to lock up and kill innocent Jews.
- God's promise – I will take care of you IF your worship me and take care of each other! (10 Commandments = 3 about loving God, 7 about doing right by neighbor- *depends on version)
- Love not just a feeling☑ church showed it by sharing resources and spending time together
- Many knew the bad system and made the choice to live out an opposite system

Key Points –

1. In God's book our first purpose is to love God and one another – everything else is extra
2. Anything that stands in the way of us loving God or each other is sinful!
3. How we spend our time and money are pretty powerful indicators of who and what we love.
4. The responsibility to love one another does not end with our small family unit.
5. Radical love should be accompanied by a radical sharing of resources (time and money)!!!

Core Questions –

- What stands in the way of you being more generous with your time and money?

- What systems are you part of or trying to build that are the opposite of the system that we live in?
- What is one suggestion for how New Roots as a community can share more deeply with each other and create alternate systems in our church community and beyond? [WE WILL ASK EACH GROUP TO REPORT BACK ON THIS]