(33) Live, **Give**, Grow, Go GIVE: *Each Kindness*

Read ***Each Kindness*** by Jacqueline Woodson

**The #1 Complaint I’ve heard from visitors, long-term attenders, and members is:**

* *“I never really connected…”*
* *“I’ve always felt like an outsider…”*
* *“I’ve never felt like I really belong…”*

**Leviticus 19:33-34**

**33**‘When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. **34The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.**

**More Than Open, More Than Welcoming – But Intentionally & Lovingly Inclusive**

* Not enough to say *“no one is excluded”* or *“everyone is welcome…”*
* “Love them as the native among you…” = **Love Them Like Family**
* **“Love Them As Yourself…”**
* **I want my sons to understand this story…**
	+ I want them to be on the lookout for the lonely, the separated, the hurting…
	+ **But I have to model this…**
		- **Authentic Greetings**
		- **Hospitality**
		- **Warmth & Kindness**
		- **Availability to Needs**

**Luke 6:32-33**

**32**If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them.**33**If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same.

* **This is not someone else’s job – This is YOUR Job**

**You Know What it Feels Like Before God Brought You In**

**Ephesians 2:19-21**

You…are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. **20**Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. **21**We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

**But it occurred to me; maybe you don’t know what it feels like…**

* I pray that you will…
* I pray that God will allow you to experience it personally…
* I pray that you will know the joy of sharing each kindness…

And, the emptiness and loss of missed opportunities…

**Because It Is The Essence of the Gospel**

**Hebrews 13:1-3**

Let love of the brethren continue. **2**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3**Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, *and* those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

**Romans 15:7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**Matthew 25:35-36**

**35**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; **36**naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

**Conclusion**

**Mark 9:36-37**

And he took a child and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."