



LIFELINE

RADICAL

The historical and theological concept of a "Radical Jesus" focuses on a first-century figure whose life, teachings, and actions fundamentally challenged the religious, social, and political status quo of his era. This perspective strips away centuries of comfortable cultural adaptation to reveal a revolutionary message that remains deeply disruptive today.

The Political and Social Disruptor

To understand the radical nature of Jesus, one must look at the geopolitical landscape of first-century Judea. Living under the crushing weight of the Roman Empire, the Jewish populace faced severe economic exploitation and military occupation. In this high-stakes environment, Jesus did not preach a passive, purely otherworldly gospel. Instead, he announced the arrival of the **Kingdom of God**—a direct, subversive counter-narrative to the *Pax Romana* (the Peace of Rome) and the absolute authority of Caesar.

When Jesus declared that the last would be first and the first would be last, he was not offering a gentle metaphor; he was turning the Roman and aristocratic social hierarchy completely upside down. His most radical political act was perhaps his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, a deliberate parody of a Roman imperial triumph, followed by his physical disruption of the Temple marketplace. By overturning the tables of the money changers, Jesus directly attacked the economic engine where religious elites

and imperial collaborators profited off the backs of the poor.

Upending the Social Caste System

The social radicalism of Jesus is most clearly seen in his choice of companions. First-century society was strictly stratified by purity laws, gender dynamics, and social class. He routinely ate with tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes—individuals deemed morally and ritually unclean by the religious establishment. Furthermore, his treatment of women shattered contemporary patriarchal norms. In a culture where

women's testimonies were legally invalid and their social roles strictly confined, Jesus:

- Included women like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna in his traveling inner circle.

- Defended and validated women learning theology at his feet (such as Mary of Bethany), a privilege typically reserved

exclusively for men.

- Chose women to be the very first witnesses and evangelists of his resurrection.

By treating the marginalized not as charity cases, but as equals and leaders, Jesus exposed the artificiality of human hierarchies.

A New Ethical Order: Love as Subversion

The core of the radical Jesus ethos is crystallized in the **Sermon on the Mount**, a manifesto for an alternative way of being



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A Visit from Space



One day a space ship landed in the middle of a huge field just outside a small, rural community. The aliens looked friendly enough, so some farmers cautiously approached them, hoping to establish a good relationship with them. The aliens greeted the earthlings warmly and said, “We are on a mission from the planet Zuron of the galaxy Andromeda. We have been assigned to explore your planet and to discover what you have learned. We are here to learn as much as we can about the planet earth. So tell us, has anything significant happened here on earth that you can tell us about?”

The farmers thought for a moment and then one spoke up and said, “Well, we have radio and TV! We can send radio and microwave signals all over the planet using satellites.” The aliens replied, “Oh, well we have had that for thousands of years. In fact, that technology has become quite obsolete. What else has happened?” Again, the farmers scratched their heads and one said, “We have developed computers that can process information in seconds that used to take years. And these computers are small enough to be carried in a briefcase!”

“Well, that’s old news, too,” said the aliens. “Hasn’t anything extraordinary happened here?” The farmers were still thinking when one of the aliens asked, “We have heard a rumor that God visited your planet many years ago. Is this rumor true?”

“Well, there was a man named Jesus Christ. He claimed...”

“Yes! That’s it! Jesus Christ! Did he really come?” the aliens asked excitedly.

“Yes,” said the farmers, “but...”

“What an extraordinary thing! What a wonderful thing!” exclaimed the aliens. “Tell us, what did you do when God visited your planet? Did you bring gifts and throw them at his feet? Did you run the streets celebrating and singing? Did all the world finally realize how much he loves them? Please, tell us, what did you do?”

The farmers pondered for a moment and then sheepishly said, “Um...we killed him.”

What are you doing with Christ? Are you celebrating? Telling the world? Is he alive in your life and are you enthusiastically living for him?

The Bible says that if we don’t praise God and bring glory to him, then the rest of creation will (even aliens from other galaxies, if they exist!). God has visited our planet in the form of his only Son, Jesus Christ. That’s pretty RADICAL!

Let’s serve him and celebrate! Join us for our “RADICAL” Sermon Series.

Pastor Greg



RADICAL

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human. Here, Jesus replaces the standard human logic of retaliation and self-preservation with an uncompromising ethic of love and nonviolence. His command to *"love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"* was a shocking directive to a people longing for a military messiah who would slaughter their Roman oppressors. Jesus reimported

the concept of resistance, moving it away from violent insurrection toward creative nonviolence. Commands like *"turning the other cheek"* or *"walking the second mile"* were not calls to weak submission; in their original cultural context, they were sophisticated methods of exposing the injustice of an oppressor while maintaining one's own human dignity.

Traditional First-Century Expectation	The Radical Jesus Counter-Proposal
Messianic Goal: Overthrow Rome via military conquest.	The Way: Conquer hatred through sacrificial, nonviolent love.
Social Order: Strict separation from the unclean and outcasts.	The Practice: Radical inclusion and eating with societal outcasts.
Religious Focus: Rigid adherence to ritual purity laws.	The Focus: PRIORITIZING human need and mercy over institutional rules.

The Cost of a Radical Life

The radical nature of Jesus is ultimately validated by his death. A mild, purely comforting moral teacher does not get executed by the state. Rome reserved the cross for political agitators, rebels, and runaway slaves—those who threatened the stability of the empire. Jesus was crucified because his vision of a world governed by love, economic justice, and radical equality posed an existential threat to both imperial Rome and the religious elite. Today, the "Radical Jesus" serves as a profound challenge to modern religious institutions that have domesticating his message. He remains an uncomfortable figure who demands that his followers move past cheap sentimentality and instead engage in the risky, systemic work of dismantling oppression, loving enemies, and standing with the marginalized.

This month...

RADICAL

A 3 week series
on following Jesus



YOU ARE INVITED



**THANKS
GIVING**
LUNCH

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CORPORATELY GIVE THANKS

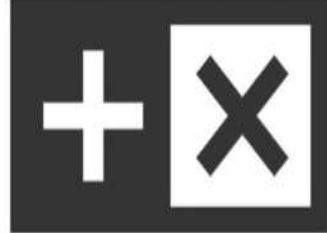
**NOV
22
SUNDAY**

WILL ROGERS CHURCH
LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP
10:15 AM



Made with PosterMyWall.com

THIS
IS WHAT *Still*
WE DO



4 Ways to Give



in person



by mail
1138 S. Yale Ave
Tulsa, Ok 74112



online
willrogersumc.org



by text
844-277-610

**ONLINE
GIVING**



Scan to give!





Financial Snapshot

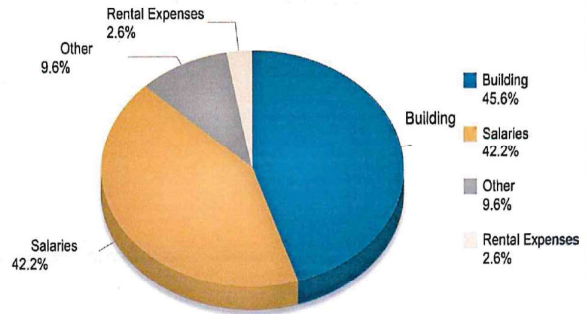
WRC Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Church	Income	\$370,062.80
	Expenses.	\$397,797.56
		-\$27,734.76

WR Preschool	Income	\$81,581.53
	Expenses	\$75,663.41
		\$ 5,918.12

Annual Budget Breakdown

Total Allocation (%)



Assets : Building - \$1,200,000

4 Houses / 2 Lots - \$ 700,000

\$1,900,000

Deferred Maintenance – 3 A/C Units - \$ 75,000

Elevator - \$ 92,000 / Fire Suppression - \$10,000

- \$ 177,000

Will Rogers Church 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget

INCOME

Pledged	\$106,000
Rental income	\$126,000
Potential income	\$8,000
Total income	\$240,000

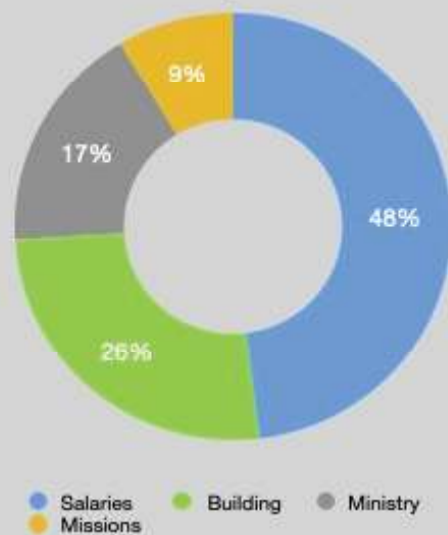
Money Out

Salaries	\$111,000
Building	\$60,000
Ministry	\$40,000
Missions	\$20,000
Total expenses	\$231,000

Money Left Over

Income minus expenses	\$9,000
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Money Out





Will Rogers Church

LIFELINE

1138 South Yale Tulsa, OK 74112-5395 (918) 834-0891

Return Service Requested

November 2026

WILL ROGERS CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY @ 10:15AM

Everyone's Welcome Nobody's Perfect Anything's Possible

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:00AM

Church website: <http://www.wrctulsa.org>

[facebook.com/WillRogersChurchTulsaOK](https://www.facebook.com/WillRogersChurchTulsaOK)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Service times:

10:15am - Blended Worship

Livestreaming

Find link on Facebook or www.wrctulsa.org

9:00am - Sunday School

THIS
IS WHAT *Still*
WE DO



Giving2026