

Now What!

Scriptures used: [Psalm 46:10](#), [Psalm 22:3](#), [Psalm 100:3](#), [John 14:6](#), [Mark 10:27](#), [Romans 8:28](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Jesse began with several scenarios of life circumstances: empty nest, that same nest re-occupied, expected and unexpected notices affecting work, health, retirement, and anything else unexpected including hitting the lottery that may beg the question, “Now What?” He considered that there may be those of us attending, participating, or even serving faithfully who are in a spiritual rut, with no excitement or feeling like we are not growing; yet he affirms, “Nothing is wasted with God!” Pastor Jesse reminded us of the last several weeks where our pastors shared about how they moved through their “Now what?” journeys during the “God Who Sees” series, including last week with Pastor Hurmon’s prayer, “God, Unsettle Me.” Are you in a “Now what?” season? Through his own experiences serving in youth ministry, he engaged us in an exhortation to choose praise and prayer over the faith lulls or ebbs in our lives.

KEY POINTS

1. **Praise on a Park Bench** - God is Omnipresent, and He can speak to us anytime and anywhere. During a mini vacation with his wife, the Lord blessed Pastor Jesse with Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God”. The Lord gave him insight to what it means to be still: to cease striving, to let go, relax. In those moments the Lord led him in further growth and understanding to be assured that he is one of His own, for Pastor Jesse to know whose he was, and to exercise his faith, even as small as a mustard seed, to expect that nothing would be impossible. At the end of that precious time on that bench, God gave Pastor Jesse the assurance of His Presence as He told him to expect the unexpected.
2. **Moral Courage** - Pastor Jesse defined it as “The courage to take action despite the risk of adverse occurrences, or taking action when you know taking action will cost you”. Like Jesus, there are times when we will be prompted to initiate choices that will help others and simultaneously may cost us in terms of time, energy, and other ways. Pastor Jesse shared about his mentoring relationship with Jerel, who needed a father figure in his life. In the foundation he laid to build the character of this young man, trust and respect was often a slow process to build, yet the fruit of those efforts resulted in the development of a young man who could himself be respected. Pastor Jesse reminds us to “Be the Bible your students (or friends, co-workers, or neighbors) will never read”. Pastor Jesse also spoke of a surprising friendship with Rushworth Kidder, the Founder of the Institute of Global Ethics that came out of an interview that arose from a conference that his wife attended. One of the key insights that Pastor Jesse shared from his own life is that moral courage can be shared with others, but more importantly, it is caught, not taught.
3. **A Recap and Charge** - Know and stand firm in your faith, be open to allow the expansive Presence of the Sovereign God into your life. He is the One who told Moses, “I Am that I Am. We can rest assured that God can do the impossible. A large part of our walk of faith is to expect the unexpected, for God is faithful and will make a way in our lives; His grace and mercy will never fail.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Is there a place in your life where you are currently asking, “Now What?” Share it with your Life Group! What do you tend to feel when you confront uncertainty?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Can you share a time when you felt the assurance of God in unsettled moments? As you review the Scriptures, which of the phrases stand out to you? Read them aloud slowly and pause where the Holy Spirit guides you for clarity as He did for Pastor Jesse. Begin your next time of prayer, if you haven’t already, as Pastor Jesse did, with an intentional time of praise. Be specific in what you are grateful for, how the Lord has provided, led, comforted, strengthened, and rescued you.
- 3) **DO** - As you ponder your own thoughts in response to “Now What?”, consider if there is a way that God is calling to serve and be a blessing to others through NBCC. Pray if God is putting someone on your heart as NBCC prepares for the “Explore God” campaign, when we will all be encouraged to engage in a season of open discussion about meaningful, God-centered questions with those close to us. Remember, Pastor Jesse’s exhortation to “be the Bible others may never read.” Your decision, fueled with praise to take action, will align with God’s will to build up others as you yourself grow in the faith, step out on your faith and expect the unexpected. Join us next Sunday as Pastor Hurmon begins his new message series, “The Gift of Curiosity” to prepare us for an exciting fall season at NBCC! Let’s grow together!