

Join the Team!

Scripture used: [Mark 1:16-20 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today on this Super Bowl Sunday, Pastor Hurmon focused on the team spirit that is omnipresent in Jesus' life, message, and actions. As soon as Jesus began preaching, He built a team. The disciples each made a choice at the moment they were called. They accept the invitation to walk into the unknown with Jesus. And from that day forward, the disciples were stretched beyond their own self-centeredness to become instruments of God's plan to redeem the world. This is the power of a team, and it is the same power that is available to us. Just as He did with the disciples, Jesus is inviting us. Not to be perfect, but to step out in faith and join His team.

KEY POINTS

1. In our Scripture today, Christ tells the fishermen "Come follow me and I'll teach you how to fish for people." They accept this powerful invitation. Jesus has created a team of loyal followers, who will be traveling with Him to tell the good news, and will stay with Him until the end. [Mark 1:15 \(NLT\)](#) says: "Believe the good news, the time has come at last." In [Mark 1:19-20A \(NLT\)](#), Jesus almost literally asks: "Please join my team." "And then they followed Him." They accepted His invitation to leave their pasts behind, and to become new people with a new purpose.
2. In times of difficulty, we need a team. It's not good to live alone. The pandemic and its quarantines were not natural. We shouldn't be pulled away from one another. For our team, we ideally have people with the right capabilities, but we really need people with the right attitude. Trust is a key attribute - look for teammates who, when they give their word, they keep their promises. Teammates demonstrate loyalty. They speak truth in love. They tell us what we need to hear, not just what we want to hear, and who deliver an honest message with kindness and respect. Great teammates are people who may disagree with our heads, but never question our hearts; who may disagree with our methods, but do not question our motivation. We should look for teammates who are humble, able to celebrate the victories of others. And, as we look for others for our team, we should ask ourselves if we are ready to be good teammates to others?
3. Because of free will, we can choose good or evil. We decide whether to be in a relationship with God or not. We can opt to be self-centered, or to help fix humanity's problems. What team should we be on? The one with the best and highest purpose, for ourselves and others.
4. The best team is full of learners, who are resilient, faithful, loyal, and humble. NBCC aims to foster such teams, ones that are Jesus-centered across different ethnicities and backgrounds; truly a light shining in the darkness. Love and intercession are at work. After the horrible earthquake in Turkey, Pastor Hurmon used an earthquake rescue analogy. Even as we are moved to support efforts for humanitarian relief and rescue, we must also recognize our opportunity in our everyday life to find people in the rubble of despair and lift them to the surface and light of Jesus' love.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What was the best team experience you've ever had? The first thing Jesus did as He began His ministry is to build a team. He was God made flesh, and yet He understood the power of working with others. God's plan for this world is not something abstract. It is right here and now, and we are expected to play a part in it. Humanity must be involved in solving humanity's problems! It is our free will that allows us to make this choice.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Think about the qualities of a good team attitude: learner; resilient; faithful; loyal; and humble. Consider the question "Who's on my team?" Do the people on your team share all these qualities? Why (not)? Now consider the same question applied to yourself: "Whose team am I on?" Do you exhibit all these qualities as a teammate? Why (not)?
- 3) **DO** - Build off the questions in the UNDERSTAND section. Now ask yourself one final question: "Is God revealing to me that I need to join a new team?" Prayerfully ask God to reveal the next step in your faith journey. You may or may not join an NBCC team, and you might find other places where your talents can be used to bring about God's kingdom. And don't forget to come back next week to hear Pastor Hurmon's message as part of the new "Thrive" series!