

A NEW BEGINNING!

Scripture used: Mark 8:31-38 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

This is the final week of our Go! sermon series. We are searching for insights about living and preaching The Good News to the world. This is the last thing that Jesus ordered the disciplines to do before he ascended into heaven in Mark, Chapter 16. But how are we supposed to behave in our everyday lives? How can we demonstrate our commitment to Jesus? These questions do not have easy answers, so Pastor Hurmon is helping light the path. This sermon helped us see two things: that Jesus was in fact the Messiah; and that He wants us to follow His example through acts of love, service, and generosity. These acts are mandatory, not optional. And now each of us has the opportunity to honestly question whether we truly love, serve, and give to those around us. That's the spirit of our Be Rich campaign, and the three actions we're taking as a church to be a little more like Jesus every day!

KEY POINTS

- 1) ***We have to live The Good News, not just talk about it.*** Each of us must follow Jesus by setting an example to those around us. Specifically, that means:
 - a. Loving, through acts of love.
 - b. Serving, through acts of service.
 - c. Giving, through acts of generosity.
- 2) ***Jesus modeled these behaviors as The Messiah.*** Jesus spoke plainly in Mark 8:31-32 about His upcoming betrayal, death, and resurrection. This was so intense that Peter actually pulled Him aside to try to get Him to stop! Peter couldn't see that these upcoming events were requirements for Jesus to fulfill the gospel. Jesus didn't want to go through all this suffering. But He knew that redemption was waiting on the other side. So he set the example for us, proving that He was the Messiah instead of just saying it. In other words, Jesus' example is an invitation to us. Join Him in this radical lifestyle!
- 3) ***We need to ask others to assess how well we are currently living The Good News.*** Ask the people around you for feedback, including your spouse, siblings, parents, and children. We need to understand how others experience us in daily life. Ask these questions with an open heart. Don't be defensive! Instead try to listen for the truth, and thank them for their honesty. Questions could be:
 - a. How do you experience my love in terms of service and generosity?
 - b. Does my attitude match the nature of a good and faithful servant?
 - c. Does it feel like I'm being loving and serving when I'm being generous?
- 4) ***We have a special opportunity to become better disciples today.*** Jesus told His disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15 (NIV). And Jesus already defined what He expected in Mark 8:34 (NIV). We are supposed to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him. This is a radical idea, which has caused millions to suffer throughout history. Pastor Hurmon reminded us that hundreds of thousands of Christians are being persecuted in the world. Their faith has made them targets, and yet they endure. We do not face persecution, but we have other opportunities to express our commitment to following Jesus.
 - a. You could bless your future spouse by deciding to be celibate until marriage.
 - b. You could bless a child by adopting them into your home.
 - c. You could bless the church by starting to give a regular tithe, or increase your current tithe.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** – This sermon series is all about Jesus, and what He asks us to do as His followers. But do you really believe in Him and His promises? Ask yourself "Who is Jesus to me?" and discuss your answers.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** – Jesus defined the Messiah as someone who sacrificed for others, not someone who is in charge. Then Jesus asked His disciples to follow His example with acts of love, service, and generosity. How can you act differently today in these three areas? What's the first step you can take?
- 3) **DO** – The church is volunteering to lift up 1,000 families during this holiday's Be Rich campaign. If you haven't already done so, [sign up to serve](#) at Santee Elementary School. There are two shifts available - 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM - on Sunday, December 3rd. Join us!