

## Trusting God with your future!

Scripture used: Hebrews 11:27 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

#### Big Idea:

In this final sermon on Divine Direction, Pastor Hurmon asked each one of us: “How do I know what God wants me to do?” This holds the key to a deeply meaningful life which transcends our limited time on Earth. Pastor Hurmon illustrated the call to live a meaningful life with the story of Nancy Matthews Elliott who was the mother of storied American inventor Thomas Edison. She was a devout Christian woman, married to an alcoholic and carouser, and mother to Thomas who (by today’s standards) had severe ADHD. When Thomas was expelled from his grade school, she focused on his unique needs and educated him herself, and helped him find purpose through scientific experimentation. She made history and changed the world through perseverance and love.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Point #1** Our biggest temptation is to quit. Craig Groeschel says: “The more God wants to use you, the more you’ll be tempted to quit.” The better option is often to stay the course in pursuit of God’s best plan for us. The challenging situations can range from interminable studies, what seems like a dead-end job, a struggling startup, marriage, health issues that require patient and focused treatment / therapy. Pastor Hurmon made clear this should not be interpreted as a call to stay in a toxic and abusive situation. The Scripture shows us that Moses, by faith, left Egypt and chose freedom instead of staying in bondage to Pharaoh’s abuse of power. The excuse to stay in an abusive marriage “for the kids” is flawed, as children of abusers will be inclined to repeat patterns they witnessed.
- 2) **Point #2** Am I tempted to leave because it is the wise thing to do, or the easy thing to do? Pastor Hurmon invoked the life stories of various individuals from Colin Powell to Lucille Ball to George Washington Carver who never quit, but instead overcame great obstacles to achieve their purpose. Thomas Edison himself said it took him 1,000 attempts to develop the light bulb. He did not see it as failure, but more like 1,000 steps.
- 3) **Point #3** Am I open to the signs God is sending me? Moses felt the presence of God in the burning bush. God was there, and he cried out to God as a result. Pastor Hurmon shared a conversation with a LYFT driver who shared her faith story and said that she kept running into God, but it took her a while to recognize Him. So we have to keep going. The runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad knew that - if they were hungry, frightened, yearning for freedom... they kept going no matter what!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Where did Pastor Hurmon’s message intersect with what God is doing in your life? Is there a particular area in your life where you are currently tempted to give up or abandon the calling that God has given you?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - What steps of discernment have you taken to more deeply understand the direction that God is leading you? Have you reflected on Scripture, talked to trusted friends and mentors, and prayed for guidance and confirmation? Consider the perseverance that Moses needed to lead the people of Israel throughout the Exodus and to overcome Pharaoh’s external opposition and the internal opposition of his critics within the Israelite community. What is God revealing to you about your situation as you reflect on the choices that Moses made in Exodus chapters 1-16?
- 3) **DO** - If there is an area of your life where you sense God calling you to stay the course, make the commitment to persevere. In some cases, it may make sense to commit to pursuing your current understanding of God’s call for a set period of time (3 months, 6 months, 1 year, etc.) before you revisit the discernment process, so you aren’t constantly questioning your course. Share this commitment with a friend, and ask for God’s grace and strength to be faithful in staying the course!