

## Different

Scripture used: 2 Samuel 9:1-8, 13 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

#### Big Idea:

Pastor Hurmon kicked us off in this new series on how to be different in terms of identity, behavior, and vocation as a believer. To illustrate this **Christian difference**, Pastor Hurmon used the recent wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in the United Kingdom - the first time in a royal wedding that an African-American Episcopalian bishop was invited to speak and did so in a way both faithful to his roots and authentic in style. This was a vignette to show that releasing Christian love can change the world. As Christians, we are different, not better, not “creepy”; but loyal to Jesus’s new commandment to love one another as He loved us.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Point #1 Christian love is discerning, loyal, and unending.** David was so insignificant that his own father forgot about him. But God did not - God “saw” him. In turn, David remembers his past insignificance and what he overcame to become King of Israel.
- 2) **Point #2 The “cripple” of the story is a metaphor for immobility and helplessness.** He is crippled in both feet, i.e., no threat, but also worthless. This can be part of the image and experience of physical disability, mental health (issues emotional and cognitive well-being), and sensory deficit (hearing loss, vision loss). The cripple lives in Lo-Bar (a sort of “below-the-bar” neighborhood, far from the seat of wealth and power). Jesus always seems to have time for us - wherever we are in terms of state and geography. He is always available to fill the hole in our hearts.
- 3) **Point #3 Our difference manifests itself through inner restoration.** Pastor Hurmon used his own story as a destructive and scarred youth to illustrate that Jesus offers a restorative love -- the kind of love that radically shakes categories while acknowledging that we all have “the good, the bad, and the ugly” mixed up inside of us, and God loves us and has a plan and purpose for our lives that starts with the reality of who we are. David restores the crippled man’s property, rank, and honor. It is a story not of physical healing, but of moral recognition and inclusion. Similarly, Jesus does not ask us to cover our scars, but invites us to allow Him to have His way with our lives, to understand that He loves us, and to yield to Him to allow Him to shape our future.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - God elevated both Saul and David from nothing to Kings of Israel! He is trying to do the same for every person. God blesses each of us in many ways. What’s one way that you have experienced God’s love for you recently?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Each of us is scarred in many ways. It may not be obviously physically, but everyone has been deeply wounded. We may feel that we aren’t worthy of love and attention. Jesus says that we are, though! His love will restore us, redefine our broken past, and lead us to a bright future! How could God use your story of redemption to gather others to Him?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon asked everyone in the church to make a list this week. Each day, we should take a few minutes to write down one way that God has blessed us in the past. We will all come to church next week full of seven different stories about God’s blessings, which is evidence of His plan being tailor made for each person!