**New Beginnings Community Church** 

**Date: October 14, 2018** 

**Speaker:** Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

DREAM CRAZY BIG: LOVE Scripture used: Luke 19:1-8 (NLT)

OVERVIEW Big Idea:

At the heart of every dream that God gives is love, because God is love. The capacity for people to "dream big" is innate for humans, because we are all created in the image of God, no matter whether we are women or men, rich or poor, healthy or sick. Because we are created in God's image, we have the capacity to be creative, to see "it" before "it" is, like an architect designing a building or an artist envisioning a masterpiece. Just as importantly, we have the capacity to give and receive love, and it is love that helps us to ask the right questions to make sure that our dreams are really God's dreams, not just our personal dreams that will end up with us being "the richest guy in the graveyard," to quote Steve Jobs. God is bigger than we can possibly imagine, and His power and purpose are at work in our lives, so we should dream crazy big to make a difference in this world!

## **KEY POINTS**

- 1) We should embrace our identity as creative dreamers. Colossians 1:15-16 reminds us that God is a Creator. He created all that we see and all that is unseen. He created the Milky Way galaxy with its hundreds of billions of stars and planets, and He created trillions of galaxies in our universe. God's power and creativity are limitless! God also created us in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27), which means that we also are creators. When we think about the purpose and possibility of our lives, we shouldn't have small imaginations; we should believe that God wants to do more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20), and we should be open to crazy big dreams the kind that other people will naturally think are crazy, because they are impossible without God making the difference!
- 2) At the core of every God-given dream is love. 1 John 4:8-9 reminds us that God is love, and the fullest expression of God's love is His Son Jesus being sent to this world so that we might fully live through Jesus. This is the motivation that shines forth through 1 Timothy 6:17-18; the reason why God instructs us to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and to share with others is because He loves all people, and He wants us to love others also. Any other motivation is a deception, and any dream we have that is motivated by personal ambition, greed, or any other purpose will not change the world for the better and will not bring us lasting happiness.
- 3) We need to change our dream questions. The questions that motivate our dreams should be:
  - a. How can I honor God's heart?
  - b. How can I make the world better and life better for others?
  - c. How can I love in crazy big ways?

It will require prayer and reflection to make sure that our dreams are coming from the right motivations and the right questions. But ultimately, it makes all the difference for a life well-lived. If our motivations are in the right place, our dreams will be aligned with God's dream for our lives, and God will do extraordinary things in us and through us!

## DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Do you make space in your life to be creative, to think about possibilities, to imagine what might be rather than simply focusing on what is? Share whether having a creative, imaginative mindset comes easily to you. Do you think it is worth it to make more room for dreaming?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** What are the dreams (or goals) that you have for your life? Are these goals primarily motivated by your own desires, or do they reflect the reality that you are deeply loved by God and that God has invited you to love others deeply in order to change the world? What would it look like to actually spend time reflecting on our motivations and how they reflect the choices we are currently making in life?
- 3) **DO** Being concrete about our dreams (i.e. writing them down) allows us to reflect on the true motivations that shape the life choices we make. If you recognize that you'd like God to do some deeper work in your motivations, start with creating time to pray and reflect on God's goodness and love for you. How have you experienced God's love? How can that motivate you to express love to others?