

WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR? - WEEK 2

Scripture used: [Mark 10:46-52 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon welcomed us to the second week of the sermon series “What Are You Searching For?” by reminding us that it’s also the second week of advent. This is a special time for followers of Jesus, as we wait and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus came into our world, and with Him came hope, love, peace, and joy. Jesus also brought us purpose, which is the #2 result in global internet searches about our inner feelings. People all over the world are asking questions such as “What is the meaning of life?” & “Why am I on this planet?” This hunger for a purpose-driven life is what motivated Pastor Rick Warren to write his best-selling book. He knew the greatest tragedy is not death, but a life without purpose. We need to find our God-given purpose as soon as possible so we can spend the rest of our lives fulfilling it!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **An encounter with Jesus’ love will change our ultimate why.** Pastor Hurmon gave us a specific definition of our ultimate why based on the Okinawan word *ikigai* which loosely translates to “why we get up out of bed.” For most of us, this ultimate why revolves around us. As a blind beggar, Bartimaeus lived each day focused on getting what he needed to survive. Then when he encountered Jesus, he realized how much more there was to life. Once he was healed, Bartimaeus didn’t run off like Jesus instructed. Instead he began following Jesus.
- 2) **Beware of hidden purpose drivers.** Jesus soon went to Jericho, where someone else sought him out. Zacchaeus — a Jewish tax collector — was nothing like Bartimaeus. He had achieved much in his life, driven by hidden forces such as the need to prove himself, acquire wealth, and achieve status. But none of it could take the place of an ultimate why. In [Luke 19:3 \(NIV\)](#), this powerful man was scrambling up into a tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus! Many people experience a similar need even after they get all the things they thought they wanted. That’s why many people experience depression after retirement. They’ve lost purpose!
- 3) **Jesus has a place for each of us in His purpose.** While in a crowd in [Mark 12:29-31 \(NLT\)](#), Jesus was asked about the most important commandment. In other words, what is the most important purpose someone can have? Jesus answered simply: love. First, love God. Second, love others. This is the ultimate why that Jesus has in store for each of us. He wants love to get us out of bed. Once love is our purpose, we will behave in ways that naturally make disciples. After his encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus donated the equivalent of millions of dollars ([Luke 19:8, NIV](#)) in an act of repentant love and restorative justice.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - There is nothing wrong with being driven. We may feel compelled to prove, acquire, and/or achieve. But none of these drivers can replace a sense of purpose in our lives. Loving God and others should be that purpose. Love should help each of us get up out of bed every morning! How easy is it for you to get out of bed in the morning? What usually gets you up?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Both Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus were focused purely on themselves before meeting Jesus. After they experienced His love, both men immediately changed their behavior. The ultimate purpose of their lives had shifted. Think about your relationship with Jesus. How have you experienced His love? How has the love of Jesus changed your life’s purpose?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon offered two pathways for action today. The first pathway is to think of 5 people who need to hear a family-friendly Christmas message. Once you have the names, share the link to [the NBCC Christmas Eve celebration](#). The second pathway is to read through the following list of practices which are reflections of expressing love: being sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, or patient. Choose one and commit to practicing it this week, with God’s help!