

GO! (Week 1)

Scripture used: Mark 16:9-15 (NLT); Psalm 103:6-14 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

We start off a new sermon series called Go! this week. Pastor Hurmon discussed this series and how its message of taking action aligns with our “Be Rich” campaign. He explained how “Be Rich” is a joyous celebration of God’s extravagant love for us all! Now we have the opportunity as a church to share this love outside our own church community. That’s what “Being Rich” is all about! And this ties directly into the sermon, where Pastor Hurmon helped us explore the nature of God, and how we see Him. Pastor Hurmon used the example of the Psalmist, who sang God’s praises while the Israelites were being enslaved by the Babylonians. His faith in God was unshakable. This faith was rewarded, as the Israelites were delivered from the appearance of disaster. Each of us faces this test of trusting God in the long-term no matter what our circumstances in the present moment.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **We each see God differently.** Many of us -- if we are 100% honest -- do not have a positive view of God. This is often based on early experiences with church and faith. In these cases, we tend to see God as:
 - a. Impersonal, unrelatable, and distant.
 - b. Immutable, rigid, and out-of-date.
 - c. Stern, and always judging.
 - d. An absentee parent, abandoning us, and unreliable.
 - e. Not real, a figment of our imagination, and a source of bad deeds in the world.
 - f. Ambiguous, poorly defined, and confusing.
- 2) **Our current perspectives are just a starting point.** We should start working today to build up a deeper understanding of God’s true character, and the relationship He desires with each of us.
- 3) **The Psalmist saw God in a very different light.** Despite the tragic circumstances of Psalm 102, he kept faith that his God was the same God who delivered Moses and the Israelites from Egypt and forty years in the wilderness. Many years later, he wrote in Psalm 103 that:
 - a. God helps those who are wronged.
 - b. God is compassionate, even suffering for and with us.
 - c. God’s love does not fail.
 - d. God will not constantly accuse us of wrongdoing.
 - e. God does not remain angry with us.
 - f. God does not punish all of our sins, even though He could.
 - g. God loves us abidingly.
 - h. God has removed all of our sins.
 - i. God is like a parent, who remembers our weaknesses.
- 4) **We must have faith that God works over time.** He does not need to prove Himself to anyone. His “Godness” is not in question. We often forget this, and look for temporary setbacks as proof that God doesn’t care. But God never promised to keep us from everything bad. He only promised that He would deliver us through them. Ultimately, He will have the last word and triumph!
- 5) **When in doubt, look to The Son to understand The Father.** God does not see Himself the way we do. As described by Paul in Colossians 1:15 (NIV), Jesus demonstrated God’s loving essence through His works of mercy, justice, and grace. Try to imitate Him whenever you’re confused about what to do.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** – God invites us to be completely honest about how we picture Him in our mind. What is the dominant picture of God when you think about Him? Does it repel or attract you?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** – We often lose faith because we aren’t patient like the Psalmist, who waited over 70 years until he saw the restoration of the Israelites. Think about the current issues of your life. Are you being patient and faithful with God? Are you praising Him in anticipation of His love?
- 3) **DO** – Pastor Hurmon challenged us with the declaration “I will GO! and practice displaying God’s love!” As a place to start, go to the [Be Rich section of the NBCC website](#) and see what school supplies you can bring in next week. Share pictures while you’re shopping and tag them #BeRich2017.