

VISION MATTERS Part 2

Scripture used: [Matthew 5:14-16 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In this final message on Life Values, Pastor Hurmon reminds us that Scripture calls for followers of Jesus to be the “light of the world.” Having a vision / mission statement is not just for organizations and institutions, it is also highly relevant for individuals and families. [Proverbs 29:18 \(MSG\)](#) in the Message version, reminds us that vision comes from God and depends on insight into how God is at work. We should pursue a sense of vision that requires gall (audacity to believe God for big things) and grit (the perseverance to not give up in the face of challenges).

KEY POINTS

- 1) We must remember the big picture and be ambitious to dream big dreams. Erik Weihenmayer is a blind mountaineer and outdoorsman who has climbed the world’s highest peaks, including Mt Everest. That kind of vision anticipates delays, setbacks, and challenges. It focuses on the ultimate victory, as victory doesn’t happen overnight. For Jesus followers, our big dreams should be connected to how God has created us (our gifts, passions, and dreams) AND the things of God’s kingdom (the big picture). We must have the aspiration to be a “Jesus light” to reflect His love and wisdom for the world.
- 2) In the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:3-6](#)), Jesus preached to an extremely diverse crowd of Jews and Gentiles, poor and rich, victims and perpetrators. Jesus taught God’s wisdom in a way that spoke to the diversity of the community to reveal God’s heart to everyone. It is in the diversity across culture, philosophy, political views, class, and other human distinctions that the truth of the Gospel, and the reality that God loves everyone and everyone matters to Him, is most clearly proclaimed.
- 3) Last Sunday, Pastor Hurmon spoke at the installation service of Reverend Desiree Lawson, an African American pastor who became senior pastor of a historically all-white congregation in Boston. This was a fulfillment of a dream that started 22 years ago in the friendship between Pastor Hurmon and the former pastor of that church. They all had the audacity to believe in the possibility of a church that crossed racial lines, and yet could be healthy and strong. Pastor Hurmon was especially excited to speak at the installation of his mentee, because God has blessed NBCC to be just this kind of church!
- 4) One key characteristic of NBCC’s vision is to put relationships first - that relationships come before rules, even though “rules” (the high call of God for His people to lead distinctive lives) aren’t discarded. Churches tend to fight over “rules” - different practices and beliefs. However, one key aspect of discipleship is being able to relate to diverse people through being humble enough to hear each other’s stories and understand the common experience of pain, loss, and the desire to matter to God and others.
- 5) When we love others with deep grace and understanding, we fall more in love with God and better understand His grace and understanding in our own lives. In this way, we are able to fulfill [Matthew 5:17](#), which reminds us that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and to call His people to a higher standard. This is what the remainder of the Sermon on the Mount portrays. It’s when we wholeheartedly love God and love others and our lives align with God’s holiness and purpose that God’s light shines through us.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is your personal sense of vision for your life? How did you come by it? How does it relate to your relationship with God? How do you feel about NBCC’s vision and the unusual diversity of our church? Have you experienced ways that NBCC’s diversity allows our community to more effectively convey God’s heart that everyone matters to Him?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon shared that the primary reason we are planning to open a 2nd campus in San Jose is to more effectively reach those who feel far from God and allow everyone in our community to engage more deeply in our vision through invitation, service, and our outreach to transform our local community. How do you feel about the church taking this next step forward in vision? When you think about taking a next step forward in your personal vision in your own life, how do you feel?

- 3) **DO** - If you haven't clarified a sense of personal vision for your own life, spend some time praying and write down how you sense God leading you! Pray also about NBCC's vision and how God might ask you to participate!