

TO SERVE OR NOT TO SERVE?

Scripture used: [John 3:16 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon led us into this fourth and final sermon of the Be Rich series. The Greek word for love, Agape, is truly embodied in the concept of service to others. In our text, we are reminded that death comes, but God's love is real, unconditional, and profoundly redemptive. God's love brings us life, purpose, value, and hope. We are all capable of love - but does our love bring value? Do others see value in it? Value = love + service.

KEY POINTS

- 1) The text reminds us that God is present and all-knowing, but He is also a servant. In [Psalm 23:5 \(NLT\)](#), we hear that God prepares a feast for us, anoints our head, fills our cup to the brim. In [Mark 10:45 \(NLT\)](#), we hear that Jesus came to serve others & that He gave His life as ransom for many. There is no excuse NOT to serve. We have to go the extra mile to serve. In [John 13:14-15 \(NLT\)](#), Jesus washes the feet of His disciples; He has given them an example to follow.
- 2) Serving others is serving God. When Jesus debates the young Hebrew scholar, the discussion turns to a technicality: "Who then is my neighbor?". Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan to show that love & service should be generous, universal, and unconditional. The Jewish man who was assaulted may never know the name of the Good Samaritan he owes so much to, but he will be forever grateful that God showed up through this man. Santee and Garfield, the public schools the NBCC congregation serves, are grateful for our gift of love, labor, and material support. Serving is the way to redeem a broken world, and an inescapable formula for making life better.
- 3) People across the service industries teach, heal, serve, deliver, build, lead... We should give up our right to be selfish. We must stop fighting and complaining and start serving. Teaching kids to serve (instead of doing everything for them and leaving them entitled) is the key to train them to become successful & influential people with the right priorities.
- 4) [1 Corinthians 12:27 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us that we are together in the Body of Christ, but that each of us has a unique role to play. Our parishioners display amazing examples of service: a Physical Therapy & Rehab specialist who helps disabled kids and their struggling parents in the process. He serves with his wife and refuses to retire. He's seen as a surrogate father by many. A church ministry volunteer otherwise occupied with two jobs, still hears the call to serve and the compulsion to care for young children. Serving is key to growing in the faith. Jesus did not die on the cross so we could sit in a chair.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Hear Jesus' call to follow Him, and reshape your values as a result. Pastor Hurmon gave the example of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. The Son of Man served others to show them how to treat everyone else.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - There is no point waiting for an elusive certainty. You must explore, try, and show initiative. When was the last time you washed someone else's feet? In other words, when was the last time you served someone besides yourself?
- 3) **DO** - Make service a #1 goal for your Year 2020 resolutions, with a specific plan to help others in a regular, meaningful, and impactful way.