

WHOSE TEAM ARE YOU ON?

Scripture used: [Matthew 4:18-22 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon tied three threads together this week. We learned how Jesus built the “championship team” of disciples who started the worldwide movement toward following Him. This week is an important time to consider the importance of teams. Regardless of the outcome, it’s amazing that the 49ers were able to turn themselves around and make it all the way to Super Bowl in just one year. That’s the power of teamwork. At the same time, the world lost Kobe Bryant, a complicated champion who died along with daughter and friends in a helicopter crash. Kobe was famous for being a selfish player when he entered the league. He then learned to embrace the importance of teamwork in his second decade as a basketball star, which is when his Lakers won their championships. His public scandal and harm he caused others also helped him grow and recognize his need for God’s grace and forgiveness, drawing him closer to God through his faith. Kobe applied his lessons as a player on the ultimate team: Team Jesus! We have the same opportunities to serve on this championship team. Jesus invites each of us to join Him as a part of a triumphant legacy of love, grace, and everlasting life.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **We do our best work in teams.** People are at their best when they’re working together. We should try to build teams for all the important parts of our lives. We should have a team for supporting our marriages, a team for raising kids, and a team for caring for elderly parents, and a team for succeeding professionally. Each one helps us do life in a way that brings us closer to God, while setting an example for others that can be a huge blessing in ways we can’t imagine.
- 2) **Jesus personally invites each of us to join His team.** In this week’s passage, Jesus walked along the water and spoke with groups of fishermen. He invited them to join Him, simply calling out “come, follow me” in [Matthew 4:19 \(NLT\)](#). And each person, when invited, accepted joyfully. Jesus extends the same invitation to each of us. He invites us into His world, where we are a part of His larger vision of redemption, grace, and everlasting life.
- 3) **Being on a team blesses us with deep connections.** Jesus modeled the different ways that we relate to other people on our team, and how important those relationships are for us.
 - a. **Jesus approaches us as a friend.** In [John 15:12-15 \(NLT\)](#), Jesus explains to His disciples not to speak to Him as a master. He is the Son of God and our savior, yet Jesus also deeply desires to be our friend. That is one of the most profound blessings of being on His team.
 - b. **Jesus shows us how to lead.** In [Matthew 20:26-28 \(NLT\)](#), Jesus describes a major difference about being on His team. The master should instead act as the servant. The first-ranked should instead act as the slave. This style of sacrificial leadership allows us to win the ultimate championship, which grants us everlasting life!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What sorts of teams do you like? Do you have any favorite sports teams? What is it that you love about them? List some of the characteristics that you think matter on a team, and how you see them practiced.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Has Jesus personally invited you to join His team? How did the invitation happen? Take some time to share these stories with other people, and to invite them to share their own stories. Try to find some patterns in the way that Jesus recruits us into His team. Are there things that prevent us from saying “yes” wholeheartedly to being on Jesus’ team? How does experiencing the reality of Jesus’ love and grace help us to overcome our obstacles and say “yes” more fully?
- 3) **DO** - Find a part of the NBCC team to join. If you’re already serving in some way, recruit another person to join you. Our church is such a blessing to the community in so many ways. This may be the moment that God is calling you to step into a greater role. At the end of the sermon, Pastor Hurmon declared “I want to be on Jesus’ team!” Do you?