

## NOT EASILY BROKEN: Fearful Yet Bold

Scriptures used: [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) and [John 15:12-14 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

One of the signature ways our Lord shows He is with us is to allow us to confront and rise above the fears life brings. We do this as individuals, and we do this together as a community. One way to think about the three woven cords of [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#), is that the three cords reflect the presence of God in our relationships: us, our friend, and God, or us, our community, and God. To enter into these kinds of committed relationships requires acknowledging our fears of being hurt by others and taking a step of courage to give others a chance. This is particularly true in a church context, and P. Hurmon challenged everyone to consider God's invitation to go deeper in relationship at New Beginnings.

### KEY POINTS

1. **We do and will continue to face fears.** Pastor expressed a fear that could resonate with all of us: the fact that our time on earth is uncertain. This past week, the Golden State Warriors basketball team were heavily impacted by the death of one of their coaches, 46 yr old Dejan Milojevic, also a father and husband, who suffered a fatal heart attack. Pastor Hurmon reflected on the way this was a reminder that death and loss could come at any time. When we face death and loss, we need others around us to support us. A faithful "we" is always going to be stronger than a faithful "me."
2. **Learn and go deep.** We at NBCC are a radically diverse community, just like the community of followers that gathered around Jesus. Pastor Hurmon challenged us to love radically with conviction, sharing the story of Levi, the tax collector in [Mark 2:15](#), who hosted a party with many attending who would be considered from the margins of society. We saw that Jesus intentionally went and was a part of the time and space shared, a specific example of His charge to us to "love as I have loved you." At NBCC, the diversity in culture, economics, politics, and more should not deter us from loving each other radically.
3. **What holds us together is being a Jesus-First community.**
  - a. Jesus is our first model ahead of all others to guide us in how to live.
  - b. He is the highest commitment in our lives; we prioritize His influence in our lives above all others.
  - c. He is our only Savior. Because no one else and nothing else can save us, our first and highest allegiance is to Jesus.
  - d. As we live in a Jesus-First way, we are charged to unlearn the myth that followers of Jesus are perfect. We are not, and as we receive God's love in our lives as He engages with grace and truth, we can engage with others in the same way. We prioritize being open to each other's stories, and when we disagree, we can still choose to radically love each other. Our commitment to love like Jesus comes from the love we have received from Him. Because He gave His life for all of us on the cross, and because the Bible clearly teaches that "God so loved the world" ([John 3:16](#)) how could we not model our lives after the love that we ourselves have received from God?

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How have you been blessed by the diversity of NBCC, or the experience of diversity in your life? How have you been challenged by the diversity of NBCC, or the experience of diversity in your life? What difference does the example of Jesus make in how we engage with those who are different from us?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - When Pastor Hurmon said that "A faith filled WE is stronger than a faith filled ME," how did your heart respond? As we review [John 15:12-14 \(NLT\)](#) this week, what principles stand out that you can apply in your life to show radical love to those in your home and community? When the message spoke of "unlearning" and "re-learning", did God move you to consider some assumptions that you might need to un-learn, in order to engage with others with grace and truth as Jesus did?
- 3) **DO** - Is there a next step that God has put on your heart to go deeper in relationship with others at New Beginnings, or to connect more deeply with our community? Join us next Sunday as Pastor Hurmon shares a message on navigating grief and caring well for others who are grieving.