

## **POWER: Barbie & The Gospel**

**Scriptures used:** [Ephesians 1:19-20 \(NLT\)](#)

### **OVERVIEW**

Pastor Hurmon continued his sermon series on power by tying together Jesus' example in Scripture and last year's smash hit movie *Barbie*. At its core, power deals with our ability to act autonomously, to influence others, and to affect the course of events in the world. We have already learned how worldly power affects everyone, both for good and for harm. That was the subject of last week's sermon. Now we are looking at expressions of personal power, which includes emotional and spiritual dimensions. Pastor Hurmon defines this as "the ability to exercise power over my life, my relationships, and the world around me." The movie *Barbie* revolves around the relationship between Barbie and Ken. The two of them represent the worlds of women and men, respectively. Both are trying to understand themselves, their identities, and their purposes in a way that transcends day-to-day life. If we use empathy to look at the man's world and the woman's world separately, we can see the flaws of each. Ken and the other men feel irrelevant in a world dominated by accomplished women. Barbie and the other women feel like they are worthless unless they become exceptional figures such as astronauts or presidents. Both groups are yearning for unconditional love. This is a gap that can only be filled by God!

### **KEY POINTS**

1. **Broken people cannot fix a broken world.** There will always be unintended consequences. When women dominated the world as in *Barbie*, the men felt irrelevant. Their dysfunctional response was to get angry, take over the world, and push down the women. When men dominated the world, women were oppressed.
2. **There is an infinite abyss in each of us that only God can fill.** Each of us wants to know that we are loved. This love cannot be conditional or temporary. It must be unconditional and eternal. Unfortunately, other people do not offer this kind of love. No broken person lives up to this impossible standard. Only God can love us in the way we were meant to be loved. Achievement and accomplishment also does not fill this gap. One of the lessons of *Barbie* is that no one needs to be extraordinary in order to be valuable and important to God.
3. **Jesus offers us the example to follow.** He was aware of his personal power. God told Him who He was in [Matthew 3:17 \(NLT\)](#). Jesus knew that He was God's beloved child who filled the Lord with great joy. That powerful belief carried through the season in the wilderness when Jesus was tempted three times by the devil. Each time Jesus rebuked the tempter, staying rooted in His identity and His purpose. He knew He was loved and that knowledge spilled out in the love He showed to others. [1 Peter 2:24 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us that because of His example and the triumph over death, we can live for what is right. And what is the right purpose for our lives? Jesus told us in [Matthew 22:37-39 \(NLT\)](#): love God and love our neighbors. We can live out this purpose only when, like Jesus, we stay rooted in our identity as God's loved children.

### **DISCUSSION**

- 1) **HEAR** - Power affects many aspects of our lives and relationships. Unlike the modern world, Jesus understood power in its proper context. If we do not start with God then we are doomed to fall victim to "the tempter." We have to remember that our power, identity, and purpose are all linked to God, and flow from Him. As we look at interpersonal relationships and relational expectations, what did you learn about personal power and relational power and influence from your family culture? What was healthy? What was unhealthy?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon challenged us with three questions. These connect to the fundamentals of power. First, do we understand the power that we possess? Second, are we aware of our needs and how they make us vulnerable? Third, what is the purpose and meaning of our lives? When we follow the example of Jesus, we are able to draw strength from the Gospel's answers to these questions. That keeps us from making the same mistakes as Barbie and Ken!
- 3) **DO** - Set aside a few minutes each day this week to pray to God and reread the Scriptures from this sermon. Focus on the Gospel and God's promises about our power and our identity. Ask God to reveal your purpose in this world. Join us next Sunday as we continue this series!