

Shine!

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

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon wrapped up our final sermon in the Dream Crazy Big series as we head into the Thanksgiving week. Many church members are dealing with the fallout from the fires, from losing their homes to displaced family members and friends. Thanksgiving is a fitting season for this sermon, which focuses on our obligation as Jesus followers to be “the light of the world” as described in [Matthew 5:14 \(NLT\)](#). Why is this so appropriate? Because it is our gratitude for Jesus that fills us up with love to the point it spills out of us! He gave thanks to God for life, and so we give thanks to Jesus. He modeled the behavior that is expected of us. We must show others a combination of service and generosity that delights and inspires the people around us. Service and generosity are the “the light” that we can shine. We can convince the people around us to dream God-sized dreams, and then become a part of their answered prayers!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **To Jesus, His followers are “the light” in a dark world.** This was very important. Jesus first described Himself as “the light that leads to life” in [John 8:12 \(NLT\)](#). But in Matthew 5:14 (NLT), the light becomes us! Jesus commands us to “let [our] good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise [our] heavenly Father.” This can be overwhelming, but Pastor Hurmon reminded us that being “the light” really boils down to two things: first, lived like Jesus lived; and second, do what Jesus taught.
- 2) **Following Jesus means trusting every outcome to God.** The recent elections were some of the most polarized in our nation’s history. But NBCC demonstrated an alternative to the anger and fear that everyone saw in the media. Our church was encouraged to fully participate in voting, and then to trust God to work through the outcome. Instead of worrying, we gathered (in all our diversity, including political diversity) at two schools - Santee Elementary and Garfield Community - to [volunteer a total of 3,484 hours](#)! On top of this service, each principal received a check for \$15,000 with no strings attached! NBCC demonstrated what Jesus taught - God’s people can come together in service and generosity to be a light!
- 3) **All Jesus followers need to challenge themselves to pursue crazy rich dreams.** Being a light doesn’t stop with one weekend of service. Each of us needs to come up with a vision for what God can use us to do. Pastor Hurmon described how the Santee Elementary principal is finally giving herself permission to dream again after many years of resignation. Her experience with NBCC showed her that prayers really are answered!
- 4) **Crazy rich dreams require us to live a lifestyle of love.** Jesus sacrificed everything for us as the ultimate act of service, as Matthew describes in [Matthew 20:28 \(NLT\)](#). His death on the cross is the most perfect example of combining service and generosity. And now it’s up to us to display these same behaviors in the world around us. Fortunately our church is leading by example...
 - a. **NBCC’s uncommon service.** NBCC’s Transforming Communities program usually runs one big service event per year. In 2019, the church is committing to offer everyone the opportunity to do at least two acts of service!
 - b. **NBCC’s uncommon generosity.** NBCC has normally donated around 6-7% of the annual budget toward Transforming Community initiatives. Inspired by Be Rich, the leadership is committing to have NBCC invest at least 10% (or \$330,000) in 2019!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Are you a part of “the light” that Jesus described? Do you feel like you do good deeds of service and generosity, and that the praise goes to God? What is a specific way that you might shine even brighter?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Finding your own big vision can be scary. You have to give yourself permission to get to the next level, and to let God do even bigger things through you. What do you think is holding you back? And what will it take to get you to the point where you’re ready to dream crazy big?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon asked us to respond to the message by affirming “I will shine for Jesus through serving and giving!” And if you haven’t already, [give \\$39.95](#) (or whatever you can afford) to raise the final \$2,400 to reach our goal of \$60,000 of donations to our Be Rich partners. We have until next Sunday, November 25th!