New Beginnings Community Church Date May 2nd, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

Move The Unmovable Scripture used: <u>John 20:1</u>

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon returns to the text we've been working through, John 20:1, that reflects on Jesus' resurrection. The purpose of this week's teaching and the series we're in, titled "GROW," is to adopt a growth mindset as we see the light at the end of the tunnel during this pandemic. In order to adopt a growth mindset, we need to overcome the barriers in our life to dream again. The ability to dream requires deep internal work about who we want to become when this pandemic is over. Dreaming again and taking the time to do internal reflection will help us to recognize that we are seeds; even if we feel buried or in the dark in this season, God is at work preparing us to sprout and bear fruit. As we engage with God in preparation for the next season, we also need to seek God's help to move the unmovable in our lives.

KEY POINTS

- 1) In John 20:1, when Mary Magdalene gets to the tomb where Jesus has been buried early on Sunday morning, she notices that the stone blocking the entry to the tomb has been moved. The gospel writer Matthew tells us that when Jesus died on the cross, it was around 3pm and in just a matter of hours the sabbath was going to begin. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus realized it was their task to bury the body of Jesus before the sabbath and Joseph of Arimathea had a tomb very close to the crucifixion site where they buried the body and rolled a big stone over the tomb. Then Pilate ordered that the tomb be sealed because Pilate remembered Jesus' promise that He would rise again. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that God's work of redemption is not unlike a buried seed that sprouts in the darkness and bears remarkable fruit.
- 2) The stone was not moved for Jesus but for us. In verse <u>John 20:19</u> the disciples are meeting behind locked doors because they're afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing among them, without having to have opened any doors. The stone was moved, not so that Jesus could get out; it was moved so that you and I could get in, to see the miracle of the resurrection, to experience the power of God. The impossible had taken the place, the unmovable had been moved, and death had been overturned.
- 3) In Matthew 28:1-2, we see the women going to the tomb together, and discussing how to move the stone. This teaches us that when we approach the unmovable in our lives, we need a team around us to confront our challenges. There are things that God has in store for us that we aren't meant to engage alone.
- 4) Ultimately, an angel came down from heaven and moved the stone away and then he sat on it. The unmovable in our lives not only requires the strength of a team; it also requires the power of God. The we/team can do a whole lot more than the "me," but there will come a point where the "we," will need the power of God.
- 5) Finally, the unmovable in our lives requires the timing of God. God could have raised Jesus from the dead on Friday night, but it would have been the wrong time. Some of us have been patient and have been waiting for God to move in our lives. However, God is faithful and when we've done all that we can do, when the time is right, God will move suddenly in the way only He can. We can trust in God's timing!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** The Stone = The Unmovable. What are the unmovable things in your life? Unmovable things may include life circumstances, relationships, and dreams. What do we wish God would move right now?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** The unmovable in our lives requires the strength of we. Do you have a team around you, or do you tend to try to carry things yourself? For some of us, the gift of humility is the first growing moment that we need coming through this pandemic. The pandemic is teaching us that we need to be humble enough to ask God to point out the things holding us back, and humble enough to reach out and ask for help when we need help. The ability to let others know, "I need help" is a growing moment, whether from others or from God. How can you reach out to build a "we" in your life right now?
- 3) **DO** Do not throw away your confidence. Persevere so you will receive what God has promised. Please join us next week to continue with our series, "GROW."