

Sunday, February 6, 2022

Preacher: Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough **Sermon:** The Fate of the Furious



CURRICULUM
GUIDE

NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This first session is full of "Getting to Know You" activities and the review of the Covenant. However, members of your Village, especially new ones, may be interested in the structure of a guide. The Curriculum Team prepared this guide to be used as an example. We suggest, along with the activities spelled out in the Run of Show sent a few days ago, you might review this guide and select an icebreaker question and maybe one or two additional questions. If time permits, these items might help open dialogue among your Villagers. The Curriculum Team likes the "Getting to Know You" section, particularly.

Suggested Icebreaker Questions to Help Begin Your Village

- 1. Your name, location, and how are you connected to ASBC?
- 2. What made you join Village this cycle?
- 3. If you could ask God one question, what would it be and why?
- 4. If you could have witnessed any event in the Bible, what would it be and why?

Later this evening we will share the guide with Village members, via Mail Chimp. We will let them know you, the facilitators, will be in touch with them to confirm date, time, and Zoom Link for your Village meeting. I will be sure to share the language of my communication with Villagers with the facilitators. The Villager's guide will contain a copy of the covenant. You may review the covenant by clicking here. Please note that Villagers' signed copy of the covenant will be kept by them for their own records.

This is an exciting moment in the life of Village! All aspects of Village are at an all time high, including:

o Staff in place: Rev. Zina and Minister Kim

Number of facilitators: 106Number of Villages: 85

o Number of participants: 1,076

We are praying for a move of God in this season. In fact, over the course of the season you will receive prayers coordinated by my colleague and friend, Minister Kim Norrington. Her prayer over the facilitators last Saturday began our habit of prayer, one we will continue. Tonight, receive this prayer from Deacon Wanda Smith. May you be covered. May you be blessed. Rest well.

Father God, thank you for this servant who has a heart of love, compassion for the lost, love of the gospel, and a deep concern for those who already are giving their lives in service to You and this body of Christ. Father God, please provide for them what they need, encourage them, prosper their work, and embolden their hearts. Raise up and equip them and fill them with Your Spirit. I pray that you deliver them from the evil one, and empower them to boldly proclaim and represent You and Your Word to the world...In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen and Amen!!!



Sermon Summary

Dr. Kimbrough provides a comparison between the story of Moses and Joshua and the eighth installment of the movie saga, The Fast and the Furious. In The Fate of the Furious, the main characters engage in complaining and find themselves searching for divinely inspired leadership. In the end, they recognize the need for a united team approach to solve their dilemma, and a "we over me" approach to life.

In the seventeenth chapter of Exodus; Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur find themselves in a similar place to the characters in the movie. First, Moses hears the complaining of the Israelites as they find themselves in the Wilderness of Sin. Second, in order to lead effectively, Moses needs the word of the Lord in his belly. Then, Moses cries out to God, seeking God's divine inspiration. Finally, Moses relies on Joshua, Aaron, and Hur to fight the battle with the Amalekites and to help hold his arms aloft. Moses recognizes that "we over me" is the only way he can lead successfully.

Lastly, Dr. Kimbrough teaches us that in the movie, Exodus seventeen, and our lives, the fate of our communities relies on leaders hearing, understanding, and responding to the complaints and pain of those we serve. By leading under the divine inspiration of God, we can operate in the spirit of "we over me" and a team-first mindset.

Our preacher for the weekend illustrates all of this using the world of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the everyday world in which we each live, move, and have our being.

Key Points

- Dr. Kimbrough reminds us that HBCUs demonstrate expertise in producing graduates in underrepresented academic disciplines. He acknowledges the success of Xavier University in increasing the number of Black medical doctors and his own Dillard University in leading the nation, per capita, in graduating physics majors.
- 2. In filling in these national gaps in the sciences, HBCUs enable students to fulfill their destiny and to impact the entire country. In the same way, Aaron and Hur enable Moses to fulfill his destiny and lead the entire people of God.
- 3. In HBCUs and in life, leaders must hear and address the pain of their community, seek divine guidance in all things, ask for help, and work within a construct that relies on teamwork.
- 4. Leaders are called to work within a framework that honors teamwork. It takes all of us to do the work of God.
- 5. The founding of many HBCUs relied on teamwork, which may include some unlikely persons, such as unlettered former slaves, white Christian men and womespectol evision there and sisters.

Getting To Know You Questions:

- 1. Dr. Kimbrough notes that Pastor Wesley's family blessed Dillard University and that the Lawless Chapel is named in their honor. This is quite a legacy. While we may not have our names on buildings or street signs, what is one way you pray your legacy might bless your extended community?
- 2. The Message Bible is one version of the Bible. Which version of the Bible do you use? Why? How does it help you in your study and in your walk with God?
- 3. Aaron and Hur come alongside Moses and help him hold up his arms. Who has come alongside you, in times of need, and "held up your arms"?
- 4. Did you, your family, or friends go to an HBCU? What was the experience like for you/them?

Into The Bible Questions:

1. For context, the Torah names the first five books of the Bible after one of the very first words of that book. For instance, in Genesis the first Hebrew word is Beresheet and it means in the beginning. Regarding Exodus, it is the second word in the verse that gives the book its name. That second word, sh'mot means names. Exodus is a book that names the people who go out at the direction of God and it names the places they travel.

Life Application Questions:

- 1. Dr. Kimbrough noted that every difficulty God permits either makes us better or becomes a temptation to make us worse. Think of a difficulty in your life that God used to make you better. How were you better after walking through the difficulty?
- 2. How can I embrace the "we over me" mentality in my Village group, in my church, and in my community?
- 3. In the Exodus scripture, Moses names one place Massah which means testing and another Meribah, which means, quarreling. Have you ever found yourself in Massah, a place of testing, or Meribah, a place of quarreling? What did you learn from being in those places? If/when you find yourself there again, what might you do differently?
- 4. Dr. Kimbrough notes the importance of diverse peoples in the development of HBCUs. Do you believe diversity is important in the Kingdom of God? If so, why? When have you experienced diversity in the work of God as a blessing?



"Can I Push It?"

Alfred Street believes HBCU's are vital institutions. Whether you are an alumnus/ alumnae of an HBCU or not, how can you be a good steward of these vital institutions?

This past week, HBCUs across the nation were been threatened with violence in the form of bomb threats. These acts of hate signal something in our nation's soul is diseased. What do you think is underneath these threats? What balm is necessary for a healing of the sin sick soul? What role, if any, can the church play in general? What role can ASBC play, in particular.

Activity:

90-Second Sprint: On a scrap of paper, list as many HBCUs as you can. For the winner, let's award a food emoji. Then, if available, select an alum of HBCus to say a prayer for HBCUs.

Spirit Work:

This sermon underscores the importance of teamwork. During your devotional time, list the aspects of a good team player. Notice which are your gifts, and which are your growing edges. Pray over these areas of growth, and write in your prayer journal where God is showing up as your change.



ADDITIONAL QUESTION SECTION

For this first session of Village, to illustrate the kinds of questions we will discuss, the additional question is the same for each group. In subsequent weeks, this will not often be the case.

Additional Questions for Married Couples:

1. What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/ supportive services for married couples?

Additional Questions for Young Adults:

What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/supportive services for young adults?

Additional Questions for Parents:

1. What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/supportive services for parents?

Additional Questions for Women:

1. What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/ supportive services for women?

Additional Questions for Men:

1. What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/ supportive services for men?

Additional Questions for Returning Citizens:

What does a "we over me approach" mean to you when developing ministry/supportive services for returning citizens?

Additional Resources

A List of HBCU's

https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/one-hundred-and-five-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/