

**I AM VICTORY: Learning to Wait On the Lord**  
**Pastor Montell Jordan**  
**March 1, 2015**

Hey wassup everybody. We'd like to welcome you to Victory this weekend whether you are here in the main sanctuary building, watching live from The Chapel, VHM or viewing online, thank you so much for joining us. Let's also take one more opportunity to welcome our 1<sup>st</sup> time guests (pause for applause)... and while you're in a clapping mood--

This year, 2015, Victory is celebrating 25 years as a church! That's right! This Is How WE do it! (I can say that, cause I wrote that.)

I have been given the distinct honor of introducing and delivering the 1st message in our new series which is titled "I AM VICTORY." Can we all say that together? ***I AM VICTORY.*** Amen.

Whether you are a member of this church or not, that's just a great declaration you can speak over your life. I AM VICTORY. I could almost stop right there, cause that'll preach...

I can guarantee that over the course of this series we will have clear vision regarding the past, present and future of this ministry.

Now if you have your bible or electronic device with you, in just a moment we will be reading from the book of ACTS Chapter 1 and Verse 8. And as you are locating that, I'm going to cover us in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for direct access to you through your son Jesus. Thank you for this time of celebration and revelation. Allow me to become invisible so what your people hear are Your words, what they see is Your truth and what they feel is your heart for us to be like you, love like you and most importantly SERVE like you. In Jesus' name. Amen!

**"Learning To Wait On The Lord"**

As I was preparing this message, I felt in my spirit that in order to fully comprehend what it *really* means to wait on the Lord, I would first need to present a crash course on the 25year history of Victory. Now I've been a member of Victory for 7 years and been on staff for 5. The Holy Spirit revealed to me that Pastor Dennis and Colleen Rouse were given the very DNA of Victory 25 years ago *as they waited on the Lord.* This is extremely important, 'muy importante' to us-- as the present success and future significance of Victory rests on all of us receiving and carrying this same DNA. God wants to share that same gift, that same DNA with us, today.

We can identify the heart Victory by remembering three numbers: Four (4), Ten (10), and Zero (0). Let's begin with the number **four**.

### **Acts 1:8 (NKJV)**

But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Here in our main sanctuary the vision was written and is made plain for all to see as we are surrounded by the 4 Pillars of Victory. Without going into great detail:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> pillar is Building Families- for us, building families represents our home or our Jerusalem.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar is Transforming Communities- Our surrounding Community, Norcross, Gwinnett County, that's our Judea.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar is Reconciling Cultures- Back in the day, The Jews and Samaritans didn't get along. Not much has changed 2000+ years later. Here, we have our very own modern day racial issues from Ferguson to Fulton...the church's intentional efforts to do life and bear witness to Christ alongside others who don't look like you, talk like you, eat what you eat or dress like you is how reconciling cultures is our Samaria. And lastly,
- The 4<sup>th</sup> pillar is Impacting Nations- To the end of the earth is the fourth pillar that can be seen from our Life Link International mission base in Nicaragua to the Church in Addis Ababa housing trafficked girls being educated and empowered to escape that life.

Those are the 4 pillars of our church imparted into our senior pastors through that scripture. I AM VICTORY, therefore remembering those 4 things becomes a part of our genetic makeup. Next, let's talk about the number **Ten**.

### **Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

This is what is known as The Great Commission-- As Victory has developed over the years, our leadership was given practical ways to take this Great Commission and apply it to our everyday living. We can do this through the

#### **10 Qualities of a Disciple:**

1. Passionately Committed to Jesus
2. Sensitive and Submitted to the Holy Spirit
3. Lives Morally pure
4. Evaluates life according to Biblical standards

There are 6 others that you can find online at Victoryatl.com, it may be presented somewhere else in this series, and Pastor Dennis is even writing a book based on the 10 Qualities... but the point is that these initiatives are provided to assist people on their journey from being believers to becoming disciples-- The journey from sitting to serving.

We love when the call for salvation comes FORTH, hands go UP, and the prayer goes OUT, Jesus comes IN and people receive Christ into their hearts; *but that's not the finish line. That's only the starting point.* Newsflash! Jesus doesn't come into our hearts looking to find a safe comfortable place to fall asleep. After you believe, He desires you to become. This brings us to the number **Zero**.

Do you know another definition for the word Zero? **Nothing**.

I've had the privilege along with many ministry leaders to be in the presence of Pastor Dennis and to glean and sponge the wealth of Godly wisdom that he and Pastor Colleen have freely shared over the years. One of the most important and consistent things that we all have learned from them is the importance of adopting the principle of living lives of Simplicity, Sincerity and Sacrifice. These three things (S's) are accomplished through something called **Humility**.

### **Matthew 23:11-12 (NKJV)**

**11** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

God's word shows us that in order to be great, we must serve. The greatest leaders are the greatest servants. Not the most powerful leaders, or most famous leaders... but arguably the greatest leaders are the greatest servants. I submit to you that Greatness is rooted in Serving. ***Servanthood is wrapped around the virtue of humility.*** For example:

Many of us will hopefully agree that Victory is a great church. Victory is considered to be a Megachurch... Just to put things into perspective, the average church size in America is about 150 people. During the month of January Victory's new members class welcomed 166 new people into our church. We basically welcomed an average-sized American church into this body a week or so ago. Yet we kinda fly under the radar because we don't self promote ourselves in the media or on TV. As a matter of fact Pastor Dennis has joked with me... I guess it's funny that if you Google "Victory World Church," more information on Montell Jordan pops up than on the senior pastor of the church. Now, I don't actually know if that's "haha funny" or "awkward funny," but the point is, there's something peculiar about a 13,000 member church that has 118 Nations of the world represented in the congregation, still most people can't tell you the name of the senior pastor.

Do you know how that happens? By design. Intentionality. On purpose. It happens through humility.

## **Philippians 2:5-11 (NKJV)**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He made Himself of “no” reputation. He reduced His reputation to Zero. To nothing. Can I say it another way? In order to go higher, you have to go lower.

Now I know this messes with the world’s theology. I’m from that go getter mentality! I know the world teaches us

- You gotta do you
- I’m out to get mine
- You got to be in it to win it.
- The early bird gets the worm.
- Only the strong survive.
- Hey-- You move you lose.
- To the victor the spoils.
- I just wanna be, I just wanna be successful.

This is what the world teaches us. Right? But Christ calls us to be in the world but not of this world... Which poses a challenging dilemma for Christians

We are not designed to be famous, but to make the name of Jesus famous. I must become nothing? A zero? That behavior for us is out of character.

Following Jesus requires us to act out of character; come out of our character which for us is often rooted in pride and self preservation and human nature... to come OUT of that and come INTO His character, which is humility. So what does that look like?

- To be somebody you must become nobody.
- You must lose yourself to find yourself.
- In my weakness He is made strong.
- In order for Him to increase we must decrease.
- In order to save your own life you must be willing to lose your life.

Are Y’all picking up what I’m putting down?

We reach greatness thru serving; Serving requires us to humble ourselves. To become nothing. A Zero. I pray after today we all see the value in becoming zeros.

By itself, the number 0 is nothing. But when you place a bunch of zeros behind the 1? Some of y'all missed that. Look--

This style of leadership was spoken into Pastor Dennis & Colleen over 25 years ago. I AM **VICTORY. (repeat)** And this is a part of our DNA. We never have to brag or exalt ourselves. We never have to promote this church. God will do it for us through our faithfulness in serving. **When you are the truth, you don't have to say it.**

[I'm reminded of the time when Jesus is with the disciples and He asked Peter the loaded question, (somehow Peter always falls for it) "who do men say that I am?" and Peter goes on to say, "some say you are Moses, some say Elijah, some say you're the prophet." Then He goes on to ask, "who do YOU say that I am." And Peter responds, "you are the son of the living God." And Boom!

[Jesus lets Peter know that only The Father could have revealed that to him.]

Many churches in America make this error. Many urban churches in our nation regularly exercise exalting the pastor, the man of God, above God himself. Then we find ourselves shocked when a moral failure occurs, or that pedestal crumbles and we finally realize that man or woman actually was a man or woman and that although God never fails us, humans will. Did you know that we can promote people into failure? (If you can't say amen, say ouch) Many churches seek fame and fortune more than seeking Jesus.

And what are churches made up of? People. Did you know that many people seek fame and fortune more than seeking Jesus? Can I get transparent with you for a minute?

Testimony 1: See, I'm a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pastoral generation at Victory. This is a generation ensnared by technology: I also know God is raising up more like me with great worldly influence for kingdom purpose: TV, film, music & entertainment... He's ministering to many of you here and many watching right now. You'll see.

If you know anything about our life's testimony coming to Victory, me & Mrs. Jordan... We did not come from a world that subscribed to a life of Simplicity, Sincerity & Sacrifice, but rather we celebrated Success. I thought as a leader people were supposed to follow me and serve me. I mean, we wasn't straight Heathens, but Jesus claimed us far more than we claimed Him. I thought my accomplishments defined who I was.

The pathway I was on was not producing life. It was producing death and planting seeds for others to reap of the fruit I had sown. Men congratulating me on how many women my example helped them conquer back in the day. Women just letting me know how my music was the soundtrack that enabled them to "give IT up" a little more easily. Thank you? What do you do with that?

We were seeking fame and fortune rather than Jesus. I know that's sad, and that was me. But take a moment and reflect on what it is you're seeking? Career advancement? Social status? Acceptance? Financial stability? Self-esteem? Identity? Listen--***Don't let what you do define who you are; Let who you are define what you do.***

You wanna be at peace with the fruit of your labor, and in the end it won't be fruitful unless it's for God.

So how can we avoid it? Avoid the lure to become more prideful and less like Christ? How can we apply the four, ten and zero into our daily lives?

### **Servanthood.**

Servanthood. Serving people. Jesus came to serve others. He would become the Greatest by serving.

#### ***Jesus was a Servant***

- The people wanted a king, not a servant.
- Wash my feet? Please!
- Thousands followed Jesus for several years, yet the multitudes narrowed down to maybe 120 at the cross. And 2000 years later He is the most famous \_\_\_\_\_ in history with 2Billion+ trying to be like Him. Legacy. He was able to establish His legacy through servanthood.

#### ***Paul was a Servant***

Seemed to have an insignificant life yet 2/3 of the New Testament was written by him.

***Dennis and Colleen are servants.*** They lead us by serving us. The Lord gave them directions for us to be following 25 years later. They were waiting on the Lord to show us how to become a great people and a great church through serving.

Here are 3 practical ways to serve.

### **I. Home**

#### **1 Timothy 3:4-5 (ESV)**

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

Men- You don't become the leader of your home by exalting yourself; By ruling over your children and crushing the spirit of your wife. You become the great leader of your home by serving your home. (This is probably going to hurt) I ain't married to you, so I can say this. If you gotta walk around talking about "I'm the man of the house." That basically means you are NOT the man of the house. (brick) **You know**

**that you are the man of the house and everybody else knows it too, when can't nobody else in the house out-serve you.**

And for my wives and children out there amen-ing all that, many of you get easily offended, can't take correction and act out of order in church because you don't know how to submit to the authority placed in your own home. (It's raining bricks) We gotta be willing to humble ourselves & learn to serve in our homes.

## **II. Job**

### **Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)**

**23** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

This means if you are the CEO in the penthouse, or sorting the mail in the basement.. you work and honor your position as unto the Lord. If you really thought God was your boss, you wouldn't be late to work. Not if you really thought that way. Some of y'all by the time you get to work, late, you can't wait to get off. You wouldn't be doing personal computer stuff on company time if you really were working as unto the Lord. Did you know the reason why many of you hate your job or your boss doesn't really have anything to do with the pay? The reality is you never get fulfilled working for a company or a person; we feel accomplished when we receive the promise, the reward of inheritance that only comes from serving man AS unto the Lord. Try it. Go into work Monday (if you still have a job) and look beyond the company and beyond the supervisor and see what happens when you honor God with your service on the job. You don't have to step on anyone to get on top. In order to go higher you have to go lower. Your humility could be the platform to your promotion.

## **III. Church**

### **Isaiah 40:31-31 (NKJV)**

But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew *their* strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.

Would you like to have renewed strength? To soar to new heights? To run with greater endurance and walk into your destiny without fainting? The word shows us how! This happens when we wait on the Lord. I shared early in this message that Victory exists because Pastor Dennis and Colleen learned to wait on the Lord. I've been saying this over and over throughout this message that the Lord desires for us to wait on Him. And many of us have heard that scripture forever and we think waiting on the Lord looks like this: (looks at watch)

Or like this: (Praying to heaven)  
Or like this: (napkin under chin)

Church! There is a difference in waiting on the Lord... (REVEAL) and ***WAITING on the Lord!***

I AM VICTORY. This is in our DNA. Serving is waiting on the Lord. This is how our church became great and will continue to become even greater because today Jesus is calling for this generation to wait on Him.

TRUE STORY: When Kristin and I first became members at Victory we heard a message like this from Pastor Dennis and 2 weeks in, and we knew we wanted to serve. We weren't even members yet, but we knew the Lord was calling us to serve. That may be you today. Children's ministry was a major need at that time and so although we were gifted in other areas, music, finance, we saw the need of the ministry and humbled ourselves to watch that ministry flourish. I served for nearly a year, my wife for over three years as well as with the children up at VHM. All this was 7 years ago. I said all that to say this: [Show photo of Samantha]

This is Sammy. She loves children's church here at Victory. But over the last few months, on four separate occasions she was unable to be admitted into a class. This is a kid, like hundreds of kids here, who love learning about Jesus in children's church. And the problem is not that we don't have enough room. We just opened a whole new facility specifically for our children, youth and young adults. The issue is we need volunteers who are willing to serve. To wait on the Lord.

Each weekend Victory is currently hosting almost 2000 children in ministry. While you're in here. Not High school or middle school. VicKids. Victory Children. 1600 at Norcross and 3-400 at VHM. This weekend we may actually reach the 7000 mark for the entire month of January.

I'm going to ask everyone to take out the card in the seat back pocket in front of you. If you're on the front row, there's a canister at the end of the aisle you may pass down. I want you to hold that card in your hand for a moment and ask yourself how have you been waiting on the Lord. If you've been doing your part, God bless you. We're not asking you to do more. Did you know in most churches 20% of the people do 80% of the work? Well not in this church. Not anymore. I AM VICTORY and sitting is not in our DNA. At the risk of being reprimanded, I would suggest this is not the church for you to just attend and look to be waited on. ***The parking lot people serving you and the ushers serving you and the worship team serving you and the coffee shop serving you and the children's ministry serving you by serving your kids, and the pastor serves you and you consume ministry and leave without so much as leaving a tithe as a tip. Not here. No sir. No Maam.***

The opportunities to serve here at Victory are limitless. The card you are holding may be the key to a blessing for your life as well as for the church you call your



home. I AM VICTORY. If you've ever parked a car before, you're a prime candidate to show someone where to park theirs. If you've sat in a seat before, you'd be great at helping someone else find their seat. Ever made a cup of coffee? Good coffee? Sign up to do it here. Now, just because you sing in the shower **does not** mean you can join the worship team... but there are areas in the music department and in production where you may be gifted to serve. If you have kids or desire to have them, you definitely should sign up to volunteer somewhere with our children's ministry. You don't have to this... But you GET to. This is an opportunity to serve someone's life—impact a child's life. You can impact my son's life.

My 11 year old son Skyler is in Victory's middle school ministry called The City. He's in a small group with about 24 other kids. They have a desire to have smaller groups for more personal interaction and God is calling for more manly, godly leaders to step into this role. Where are the godly men willing to help us raise our boys to men? Our girls to women?

MEN, I'm personally challenging you. I believe the women will do it. But men, Lead by example. Show God's greatness in you by humbling yourself, come out of your comfort zone and show our women what it looks like when Godly men take responsibility for this generation. I changed diapers and wiped their little noses because they need fathers back there leading them. *Some of them don't have male representation at home.* What are you gonna do about that. Wait for someone else to do it? Or wait on the Lord.

### **Matthew 18:3 (NKJV)**

And said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

So how do we become like little children? Be around them. Serve them. The desire is to have everybody serving somewhere. Please fill out the card and specify an area where you believe God is calling you to serve, and to wait on Him. Make sure you write legibly. PLEASE. And listen—when you exit today, place the card with the ushers and you will receive an email TODAY with information in how you can get started. No more excuses. If someone does not respond to you within 24 hrs it will be because your penmanship is suspect. God has been waiting on you. (Did you get that?)

Closing Prayer: Offer Salvation