



What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. God is holy, and we are not—but Jesus bridged the gap we couldn't cross ourselves.
2. Faithfulness is measured by faithfulness, not by outcomes.
3. The greatest gift of the gospel is not what Jesus does for us, but Jesus himself.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does social media influence our definition of success? What are some ways we compare ourselves to others, and how does that affect our contentment?
2. The temple veil was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died. What does this imagery reveal about what Jesus accomplished for us? How does this change our understanding of access to God?
3. Though Acts we see Paul's transformation from persecutor to prisoner for Christ. What stands out to you most about his story? What would have been hardest for you in his situation?
4. Faithfulness is measured by faithfulness, not outcomes. What's the difference between these two measures? Share a time when you were faithful but didn't see the outcome you hoped for. How did that affect you? How might this perspective change the way you approach current challenges?
5. After two years in prison with no visible ministry results, Paul could still say, "I wish you could have what I have." What specifically did Paul have that circumstances couldn't take away? How is this different from what our culture says we need to be happy?
6. When faithfulness is your goal, problems don't have the same power over you. Do you agree or disagree? Why? How might this principle apply to a specific problem you're facing?

7. Are you currently in a holding pattern where you feel stuck or ineffective? How does Paul's example speak to your situation?
8. If someone asked you, "What do you have that I should want?" how would you answer? Would you point them to Jesus or to your circumstances?
9. Having Jesus doesn't mean the diagnosis changes. It just means you're not alone in the waiting room. How does this truth comfort or challenge you? Share a time when you experienced Christ's presence in a difficult situation.

Practical Applications:

1. Each morning this week, before checking your phone or social media, remind yourself: "My worth is not measured by my circumstances but by my faithfulness to Christ."
2. Write down three things you have in Christ that circumstances cannot take away. Review this list when you feel discouraged.
3. Identify one area where you've been measuring success by outcomes rather than faithfulness. How can you shift your perspective?
4. Share one "holding pattern" you're experiencing with your group or a close friend. Commit to praying for each other daily and checking in mid-week.
5. Plan to share with someone this week (believer or non-believer) about what you have in Christ, not what you've accomplished.