



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

Key Takeaways:

1. Worship is a lifestyle, not just a Sunday morning activity - True worship happens when we drive off the hill and live differently in our everyday lives.
2. Living sacrifice means daily surrender - Unlike Old Testament sacrifices that didn't walk home, we must choose to climb back on the altar every single morning.
3. Transformation requires renewed thinking - We're called to be transformed by renewing our minds, not conformed to the patterns of this world.
4. Our gifts are for service - Every believer has gifts meant to be used actively, simply, and with the right attitude.
5. Forgiven people forgive - When we understand the magnitude of what we've been forgiven (200,000 years of wages), we can't withhold forgiveness from others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean to you personally that worship is "your reasonable response" to God's mercy? How does this change your perspective on what worship actually is?
2. We've been justified, given peace with God, reconciled, freed from condemnation, adopted as heirs, and nothing can separate us from God's love. Which of these mercies resonates most deeply with you right now? Why?
3. What does it look like practically to "climb back on the altar" each morning? What are the biggest obstacles that keep you from doing this?
4. Read Romans 12:3-8. We tend to either exaggerate our abilities or exaggerate our weaknesses. Which tendency do you struggle with more? How does this affect your service?
5. If you have a gift to serve, you should... *serve*. Why do we often complicate something so simple? What's one way you could keep it simple this week?

6. Discuss the three principles for using spiritual gifts: get to work (don't wait around), keep it simple (use what you have), do it with the right attitude. Which of these three challenges you most?
7. Read Romans 12:9-13. What does "love without hypocrisy" look like in practical terms? Can you think of a time when you wore a "mask" in how you loved someone?
8. Love should be mixed all the way through, complete and sincere. How can we tell if our love is "sincere all the way through" or just surface-level?
9. Love is a choice which is followed by an action that sometimes brings an emotion. How does this definition challenge the way our culture talks about love? How does it challenge you personally?
10. What's the difference between "detesting evil" in our own lives versus focusing on evil in others? Why is it easier to point out others' sins than our own?
11. Read Romans 12:14-21. "Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep." Why is this sometimes harder than it sounds? When is it most difficult for you—rejoicing with others' wins or weeping with their losses?
12. We've learned to "weep with people without ever getting our cheeks wet." What does it mean to truly sit with someone in their pain rather than just sending a crying emoji?
13. "Live at peace with everyone, as far as it depends on you." What's the significance of that qualifier—"as far as it depends on you"? Where do you need to apply this right now?
14. Discuss the 200,000 years of wages parable. How does remembering what you've been forgiven help you forgive others? Who in your life do you need to stop "choking over gas money"?

Practical Applications:

1. Take 3-5 minutes of silence for personal reflection: What specific area of Romans 12 is God highlighting to you today? What's one way you've been "conformed to this world" that you need to change? Is there someone you need to forgive this week? What gift has God given you that you're not currently using?
2. Daily spend 5 minutes consciously "climbing back on the altar"—surrendering your day, your plans, your relationships to God.
3. Identify one person you've been loving "with a mask on" and take one concrete step toward sincere, complete love toward them.
4. Practice "philoxenia" (love of strangers) by intentionally reaching out to someone who seems uncomfortable or alone—at church, in your neighborhood, or at work.
5. Make a list of what you've been forgiven (your 200,000 years). Then list what others owe you (100 days wages). Pray through releasing those debts.
6. Identify one relationship where there's tension. Ask yourself: "As far as it depends on me, what can I do to pursue peace?" Then do it.