



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

Key Takeaways:

1. Marriage should be honored, not idolized - Marriage is a good gift from God, but it's not the ultimate goal or measure of spiritual maturity.
2. Singleness is a gift, not a waiting room - Being single isn't a consolation prize or a deficiency; I
3. Neither marriage nor singleness is the "easy road"; both require sacrifice and offer distinct advantages.
4. Your worth was fixed at the cross - Your value doesn't increase with marriage or decrease with singleness; Christ already determined your worth.
5. Serve Christ where you are - Faithfulness to God in your current circumstances matters more than changing your status.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7. Why do you think Paul quotes the Corinthians' statement before responding? What does his response tell us about God's design for marriage?
2. Read verses 7-9 and 32-35. What specific benefits of singleness does Paul identify? Why might these have been particularly important in the early church context?
3. Look at verses 17-24. How does Paul use the examples of circumcision and slavery to make his point about marital status? What's the main principle he's teaching?
4. Be honest: Have you ever viewed singleness as a "waiting room" rather than a legitimate calling? Where do you think that perspective came from?
5. For married people: In what ways has marriage been both a blessing and a challenge in your walk with Christ? How has it shaped your sanctification?
6. For single people: What are some ways you've experienced the unique benefits of singleness in serving Christ? What are some of the challenges you face that married people might not understand?

7. How do we balance the pursuit of joy in marriage with the reality of sanctification?
8. In what ways has our church culture (or Christian culture in general) communicated that marriage is the "default" and singleness is a "deficiency"? Can you think of specific examples?
9. Read Matthew 19:10-12. The disciples thought Jesus' teaching on marriage was so difficult that it would be "better not to marry." Why do you think they responded this way? What does Jesus' response about eunuchs teach us?
10. How can we, as a small group, better honor and support the single Christians among us without making assumptions or applying pressure?
11. What are some practical ways we can shift our conversations to focus on spiritual growth rather than relationship status? (Like asking "What's God teaching you?" instead of "Are you seeing anybody?")
12. For everyone: What does "denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Jesus" look like in your current season—whether married or single?

Practical Applications:

1. Examine your heart: Do you view your current status (married or single) as a limitation to serving Christ, or as an opportunity? Journal about this honestly before God.
2. Bring your ache to Jesus: If you're struggling with singleness or difficulties in marriage, practice bringing that pain honestly to God rather than pretending it doesn't exist or letting it define your worth.
3. Evaluate your conversations: This week, pay attention to how you talk to or about single people. Are you unintentionally communicating that they're "less than"?
4. Create intentional community: Plan a group activity that includes both married couples and singles, ensuring no one feels like a "third wheel."
5. Prayer partners: Pair up (mixing married and single group members) to pray specifically for faithfulness to Christ in your current circumstances.
6. Accountability: Ask someone in the group to help you recognize when you're making marital status an idol or treating it as more important than obedience to Christ.