



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

Key Takeaways:

1. The false teachers in Galatia tapped into a deeply human tendency: the belief that we must do something to secure our standing with God. The gospel, however, is not a transaction. Our works are a response to what God has already done, not a means of earning what he freely gives.
2. The law functions like an x-ray. It exposes our brokenness and sin but cannot fix it. Jesus came to do what the law never could: pay the debt we owed and set us free from what bound us.
3. Being declared "not guilty" is not the whole story. God did not simply open the prison door and leave us in the parking lot. Through adoption, he brought us home. We are not servants, not guests, not projects. We are sons and heirs.
4. God placed his Spirit in us so that we would know him as Father, not just know about him. The cry of "Abba, Father" is not a formality. It is the language of a child who knows where home is and runs there without calculating whether they have earned the right to do so.
5. There is a difference between knowing God loves you and believing God delights in you. Many of us can affirm the first on Sunday and doubt the second by Wednesday. The Father is not tolerating us. He is not reluctantly working on us. He delights in having us as his own.

Discussion Questions:

1. Without thinking too hard, what is your gut reaction when you hear the phrase "God is your Father"? Where do you think that reaction comes from?
2. The Galatians' struggle was a "people problem," not just a Galatian problem. In what areas of your own life do you find yourself trying to earn God's favor rather than rest in it? What does that tend to look like practically?
3. Drawing the distinction between God being anti-earning and God being anti-effort, how would you explain that distinction to someone who is new to faith? Why does it matter?
4. Read Galatians 4:4-7. Notice how Jesus "lived for you far before he ever died for you." What does it mean to you that Jesus spent his entire life perfectly obeying the law on your behalf, not just dying on the cross? How does that change the way you think about what was accomplished for you?

5. The "great exchange," the most lopsided trade in human history: Jesus takes everything that is ours, and he gives to us what belongs to him. In your own words, what did you give and what did you receive in that exchange? Spend a moment sitting with the weight of that before moving on.
6. The adoption language in verse 6 is specific. In that culture, sons received the full inheritance. Paul applied that status to every believer regardless of background, gender, or social standing. What does it mean to you personally that you have not been given a lesser seat at the table but full status as a son and heir?
7. What is the difference between an orphan mindset and a son mindset? An orphan does quiet math: "Did I do enough today? Am I still in good standing? What do I need to do to make sure he is happy?" How much of your daily spiritual life is shaped by that kind of quiet math? What would it look like to live differently?
8. The illustration of the child launching herself onto her father at the sight of a squirrel was about instinct, not calculation. She did not pause to evaluate her legal standing in the household. She simply ran to her dad. What would it look like for you to approach God with that kind of instinct, especially in moments of fear, failure, or frustration?
9. How did you answer? Does God love you? Does God like you? Most hands go up for the first and far fewer for the second. Why do you think that gap exists? What lies or experiences tend to create it? Is there a specific area of your life where you find it hardest to believe that God delights in you, not just loves you? What would it take to begin believing that in that specific area?
10. Most of us will spend many of our days wondering if we have done enough instead of reflecting on the fact of how loved we are. What rhythms, habits, or thought patterns in your life reinforce the orphan mindset? What could replace them?

Practical Applications:

1. Pay attention this week to the internal narrative running in the background of your spiritual life. When you make a mistake, miss a quiet time, or fall short of your own standard, notice what you tell yourself about your standing with God. Write it down. Bring it back to the group next week.
2. Intentionally begin your prayer time this week with the word "Father" or "Dad" rather than a more formal address. Notice how it feels. Does it feel natural? Uncomfortable? Foreign? Sit with that and ask the Spirit what it reveals.

3. Memorize Galatians 4:6-7. Commit these two verses to memory this week. The summary of what they communicate is this: God sent his Spirit into your heart so that you would know him as Father, and because you are a son, you are also an heir. Repeat it when the orphan mindset creeps in.
4. Find one person this week, inside or outside the church, with whom you can share the difference between God being anti-earning and anti-effort. The act of explaining it will help you own it more deeply yourself.
5. Write a short letter from your perspective as a child to God as your Father. Do not make it formal or polished. Write it the way you would actually talk to someone who delights in you and is not going anywhere.