

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

Key Takeaways:

1. Working out your salvation is a continuous, active command, not a one-time event. You work out because God is working in.
2. Grumbling almost always involves pulling someone else into the negative. It makes things about us and removes responsibility from us.
3. The darkness of the world is not primarily a reason to complain. It is an opportunity to shine.
4. Discipleship was never designed to be a solo experience. Jesus created the church because we need people to spur us on, push us toward him, and call us out.
5. Ask yourself: How am I walking with Jesus? Who am I walking with? Who am I shining Jesus toward?

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever joined a gym and at some point was paying the monthly fee but had stopped working out? Where in your spiritual life have you been paying the membership fee without doing the work?
2. What is the difference between doing things for Jesus and simply being with Jesus? What does your time with Jesus look like on a Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning when no one is watching and nothing is scheduled?
3. Philippians 2:12-13 describes a partnership between God's work in us and our active response. Like a farmer can't make a seed grow but still prepares the soil, waters it, and pulls weeds, what does that look like practically in your own life right now?
4. Are you more of a professional Christian or a desperate one? What is the difference, and which one better describes where you are today?
5. Grumbling almost always involves pulling someone else into it. Think about the last time you grumbled to someone. What were you really after in that moment? When someone grumbles to you, what is your typical response? Do you join in, stay silent, or point them toward something better? Why do you think that is?

6. A country club community is finding people you like. Biblical community is finding people who will help you become like Jesus. Which one better describes your closest relationships right now?
7. Who actually knows you? Not who recognizes you on Sunday, but who knows when you are struggling, who you are praying with, and who you are helping follow Jesus? How would you answer that?
8. Sometimes the person who irritates you can be revealing something in you that God wants to change. Has that ever been true in your experience? What happened?
9. How can the common phrase "look how dark the world has gotten" become a form of grumbling? How does shifting from "the world is so dark" to "we have an incredible opportunity to shine" change the way you engage with your neighborhood, your workplace, or your family?
10. Paul says in Philippians 2:15-16 that believers are to shine like stars by holding firmly to the word of life. Stars do not generate their own light. What does it look like practically to hold out something that is not your own?
11. Paul says in Philippians 2:17 that even if he is poured out like a drink offering on behalf of the people he is serving, he is glad. What are you currently pouring your life into? Is that where you want it to go?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside time this week that is not task-oriented or ministry-related. Simply be with Jesus. No agenda, no list. Bring what you notice back to the group.
2. Make a list of the people you spend the most time with. Next to each name, write whether that relationship is pushing you toward Jesus or pulling you away. Pray over that list.
3. The next time someone grumbles to you, try praying with them in that moment instead of joining in or staying silent. Come back and share what happened.
4. If you do not have someone who truly knows you, take one step this week toward that kind of relationship. Reach out to someone in this group or in the church and ask if you can meet one on one.
5. Write down the name of one person in your life who does not know Jesus. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Consider what it might look like to simply be faithful right where God has placed you in relation to that person.