Sermon Guide

November 15: 1 Peter 2:1-12

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

Key Takeaways:

1. Christians are called to crave the Word of God the way a newborn craves milk — not just new believers, but everyone, at every stage of faith.
2. Jesus is the living cornerstone who absorbed our shame and rejection so that those who believe in him will never be put to shame.
3. Our identity as a chosen race, royal priesthood, and holy nation is not earned — it is given, and it carries the responsibility of proclaiming God's praise.
4. Our conduct among unbelievers is our most powerful witness. Character is the argument for Jesus.
5. We are strangers and exiles here. How we live should reflect where we are ultimately headed.

Discussion Questions:

1. Like a baby craves milk, what does genuine craving for the Word of God look like in your daily life, and how does it differ from simply reading the Bible out of routine or obligation?

2. Peter instructs believers to rid themselves of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander before they can fully receive the nourishment of God's Word. Like filling up on chips and salsa before the main meal arrives, what in your life might be dulling your appetite for what God actually has for you?

3. Psalm 34:8 invites us to taste and see that the Lord is good, with the condition of taking refuge in him. When was the last time you paused long enough to actually taste and acknowledge God's goodness in a specific moment or season of your life?

4. Where in your life are you most tempted to find your worth or identity in other people's opinions?

5. Verse 6 promises that the one who believes in Jesus will never be put to shame. What is walking in shame? Without requiring anyone to share details they are not comfortable sharing, discuss: what does it look like practically to release shame to Jesus rather than continuing to carry it?

6. Verse 9 describes believers as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's possession — all for the purpose of proclaiming his praises. How does your daily life reflect this identity? Where does it fall short?

7. Who in your life has modeled what it looks like to let God's grace overflow? What did that look like specifically?

8. Peter calls believers strangers and exiles and urges them to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Are we spending too much time living as though we are here permanently? What would it look like to live with a greater awareness that this life is brief?

9. Psalm 90:12 teaches us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. What is one practical way you could be more intentional about how you spend your time, specifically in relation to people around you who do not yet know Jesus?

10. Who in your life are you consistently and patiently loving toward faith? If no one comes to mind, what might that reveal?

Practical Applications:

1. Before reaching for your phone in the morning, spend at least 60 seconds sitting quietly and asking God to work through you that day rather than relying on your own strength.
2. Identify one "chip and salsa" habit — something that is not necessarily sinful but is crowding out your appetite for God's Word — and intentionally set it aside for a defined period of time.
3. Write down one person in your life who does not know Jesus. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week, and look for one natural opportunity to express genuine care for them.
4. Reflect on whether you are carrying shame over something that Christ has already taken from you. Consider speaking with a trusted friend, small group leader, or pastor about it rather than continuing to carry it alone.
5. Ask yourself honestly: is your primary motivation in doing good works your own moral reputation, or is it the Holy Spirit working through you? Bring that question to God in prayer this week.