



Outward Group Discussion Guide

December 21 2025 (Silverton)

SUMMARY

This sermon explores the crucial difference between worldly standards and gospel standards of acceptance and performance. Using Exodus 19:4-6 as the foundation, the message emphasizes that God first rescues and redeems us (bearing us on eagle's wings), and then calls us to respond in obedience—not to earn acceptance, but because we are already accepted. Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers receive imputed righteousness and become God's "treasured possession" or "segulah"—His private stash of gold and silver. This new identity as champions rather than losers should motivate believers to take obedience seriously, not out of fear or shame, but out of gratitude and to fulfill their calling as a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" meant to proclaim God's excellencies to the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding that God's acceptance comes before our obedience change the way you approach living out your faith compared to trying to earn God's approval?
2. In what areas of your life do you struggle most with seeing yourself as God's 'treasured possession' rather than as garbage or a loser, and how might changing that mentality affect your spiritual walk?
3. The sermon mentions that both the world and the gospel require high standards, but in different orders. How have you experienced the crushing weight of trying to meet standards before feeling accepted?
4. What does it mean practically for you to 'fully obey' God while also recognizing that you will never achieve perfection on your own?
5. How does the image of God bearing us 'on eagles' wings' to safety speak to your current struggles or areas where you need God's protection?

6. The pastor suggests we might need to get rid of our phones, money, or other things that cause us to sin. What is something in your life that you know you should take more seriously in terms of obedience?
7. How does understanding that we are already 'winners' with the ring of victory change your motivation for holy living compared to striving to earn that victory?
8. What does it mean for you personally to be part of a 'kingdom of priests' called to proclaim God's excellencies to the world around you?
9. How can confession and repentance be understood as acts of obedience rather than just admissions of failure?
10. In what ways does your life as a Christian set you apart as a 'holy nation' from the patterns and values of the surrounding culture?