Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. God's presence is never absent. Our awareness is.
2. God's river of life is constantly flowing, bringing life to the lifeless, hope to the hopeless, and restoration to the ruined. The question is not whether God is moving, but whether we have the eyes to see it.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon described inattentional blindness as a phenomenon where something is present but goes unnoticed. Have you ever experienced something similar in your spiritual life, where God was clearly at work but you did not recognize it until later? What helped you see it in hindsight?
2. Both Jacob and Elisha's servant had moments where the spiritual realm was revealed to them in a way they had not previously seen. What do you think it means practically, in everyday life, to be aware of the spiritual realm? How is that different from being superstitious or overly mystical?
3. Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." He was not in a temple or a place of worship. He was sleeping on the ground with a rock for a pillow. What does this tell us about where and when God's presence can be found?
4. The river in Ezekiel flows into the Dead Sea and brings life even there. The Dead Sea is a place where nothing can survive. What does this say about the kind of situations and people God's river of life can reach? Are there people or circumstances in your life that feel like a "Dead Sea" to you? How does this passage speak to that?
5. The sermon said: "I think sometimes we become so focused on our preferences that we miss God's presence." What are some specific preferences, habits, or assumptions that might be functioning as blinders in your life, causing you to miss what God is doing around you?
6. The prayer offered at the end of the sermon was: "O Lord, please open my eyes that I may see. Give me the wisdom and courage to accept your invitation to help bring life where there is death." What would it mean for you personally to pray that prayer and mean it? What might change in your daily life if God answered it?

Practical Applications:

1. Before getting out of bed, pray the prayer from the sermon: "O Lord, please open my eyes that I may see; give me the wisdom and courage to accept your invitation to help bring life where there is death." At your next meeting, share what you noticed.
2. Identify one person in your life this week — neighbor, coworker, family member, or acquaintance — ask yourself: what might be happening beneath the surface for this person? What might God's river of life want to do in their life? Consider one concrete step you can take toward them.
3. As a group, take a few minutes to identify the neighborhoods, workplaces, and spheres of influence represented in your group. Pray specifically over those places. Ask God to open your collective eyes to where His river is flowing in those spaces and how your group might join in.
4. Take a few quiet minutes individually to answer this question honestly: In what area of my life am I most focused on my own preferences in a way that might be causing me to miss God's presence? Share it with the group or with a trusted person this week.