

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Broken covenants cause real and lasting pain, and the church is called to respond with love, belonging, and ongoing support rather than judgment.
2. Divorce does not disqualify anyone from God's love. His grace reaches every situation & every person.
3. Spiritual drift rarely happens all at once. Like a marriage that slowly becomes a roommate arrangement, our relationship with God can quietly lose its passion without a single deliberate choice being made.
4. The church in Ephesus was doing everything right outwardly, yet Jesus warned them in Rev 2 that they had abandoned their first love. Faithful activity is not the same as genuine devotion.
5. God remains a faithful covenant keeper even when human relationships fail. He pursues us & does not drift.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon acknowledged divorce and adultery have touched many lives, & the church has often handled this topic poorly. In your experience, how has the church done well or fallen short in caring for people affected by divorce?
2. Charlene shared she has sometimes felt judged and felt the need to justify her situation. Jacob shared as a child he was treated as fragile & as a statistical inevitability of failure. What do those experiences reveal about how we sometimes approach hurting people? How can we do better?
3. Jacob said, "God hates divorce," and was careful to separate that from the idea that God hates divorced people. How do you hold both truths together in a way that is honest & compassionate?
4. Jacob observed that divorce is not a one-generation pain. How does that perspective shape the way you think about marriage, supporting families, & investing in children from broken homes?
5. The sermon introduced this central truth: when the passion fades, drift invades. Where have you personally seen this pattern, either in a human relationship or in your relationship with God?
6. The sermon compared a drifted relationship with God to a spouse who has become more like a landlord you pay Sunday rent to. Does that image resonate with you? What habits or circumstances tend to push you in that direction?
7. The church in Ephesus received a serious warning. If they did not return to their first love, their lampstand would be removed. Church history shows that Christianity is essentially absent from that region today. What does that outcome say about the danger of drift, even in a church that looks healthy?
8. Both Charlene and Jacob described how their painful experiences ultimately deepened their relationship with God, though neither journey was quick or easy. What does their testimony say about how God can work through circumstances He never intended?
9. Jacob said that God's grace turns a hurdle into a motivator. Has there been a painful season in your own life that God has used that way? What did that process look like?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside 10 minutes each day this week to simply be in God's presence. No phone, no podcast, no prayer list. Just stillness and attention. At your next group meeting, share what that experience was like.
2. If someone in your life is walking through divorce or its aftermath, take one concrete step toward them this week. Sit with them. Invite them to a meal. Send a message that does not require them to explain or justify anything. Simply let them know they are not alone.
3. Reflect honestly on your own spiritual temperature. Write down three words that describe your relationship with God right now. Then write down three words that describe how you felt when that relationship was at its most alive. Ask God what it would take to close any gap you may have noticed between the two.
4. If you have been affected by divorce & have never processed that experience with a counselor, a mentor, or a pastor, consider taking a step toward that this week. Healing is a sign of courage, not weakness.