

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaways:

1. The Good Shepherd stays, unites, sacrifices, and secures our faith while the hired hand flees when danger comes.
2. Unity does not mean uniformity - We can have diverse opinions while remaining united in the essentials of faith.
3. The essentials of faith: We are separated from God because of sin, and the only way back to God is through Jesus.
4. Faith often requires action without visible assurance - like the official who trusted Jesus and left without Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the key differences between the good shepherd and the hired hand in verses 11-13?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says He has "other sheep that are not of this fold" (v. 16)?
3. Discuss the quote: "In necessary things unity, in not necessary things freedom, and in both charity."
4. What are the "essential" or "necessary" things we must agree on as Christians?
5. What are some "non-essential" areas where Christians can disagree while maintaining unity?
6. What does it mean practically to "know the shepherd's voice"?
7. What are some examples of "false shepherds" or false teachings the pastor mentioned?
8. How can we better discern between God's voice and other voices?

Practical Applications:

1. Engage Daily with Scripture, commit to reading your Bible every day this week.
2. Focus on one of the "I Am" statements of Jesus.
3. Journal about what you're learning about Jesus' voice and character.
4. Embrace Diverse Conversations, intentionally have a conversation with someone who holds a different opinion on a non-essential matter, seek to understand their perspective rather than convince them of yours.
5. Identify one area where God is calling you to trust Him without visible assurance.

