

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Your impossible situation may not be a prison to escape but a placement from God for you to illuminate.
2. God is often less interested in giving us a platform than He is in calling us to simply be present.
3. Salt that is present but not overbearing preserves & adds flavor. Salt in the shaker does neither.
4. Light does not run from darkness. It runs into it.
5. We often wait for God to remove us from a difficult situation before we are faithful in it. But faithfulness is frequently the calling within the situation, not after it.
6. Pride can keep us from stepping into the very healing God has prepared for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. The unnamed slave girl had every reason to resent Naaman. Instead, she spoke up on his behalf and pointed him toward healing. What do you think made it possible for this girl to respond with compassion instead of bitterness? What does that reveal about her character and her faith?
2. The sermon references Jesus describing believers as the salt of the earth in Matthew 5:13, noting that salt preserves, adds flavor, and works best when it is present without being overbearing. Think about someone in your life who has functioned like salt -- someone whose quiet, steady presence made a difference without drawing attention to themselves. What did that look like?
3. Where in your daily life do you feel most like salt that is still sitting in the shaker -- present but not actually doing anything?
4. The sermon describes Christianity not as a spectator sport but as being deployed into darkness. How does that change the way you think about your workplace, neighborhood, or social circles?
5. Naaman expected something spectacular. Instead, he was told to wash in a river seven times. His pride nearly cost him his healing. Naaman's servants had to talk him down from walking away. Who in your life has played that role for you -- someone who helped you set aside your pride long enough to receive what God had for you?
6. The sermon draws a parallel between Naaman's physical leprosy and the decay that sin brings into a person's life. In what areas of your life are you standing at that same crossroads -- holding on to pride or the ways of the world rather than stepping into what God is offering?

Practical Applications:

1. Name your Naaman. Identify one person in a difficult relationship -- a boss, a coach, a coworker, a classmate -- and commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to help you see them not as an obstacle but as someone He may have placed you near on purpose.
2. Stop enduring, start engaging. Pick one situation you have been trying to survive or escape. This week, instead of counting down until it changes, ask God how He wants to use you in it right now.
3. Go somewhere uncomfortable. Identify one place or relationship where you have been absent because it felt too dark or too messy. Take one small step toward showing up there this week, not to fix anything, but simply to be present.
4. Reflect on your saltiness. At the end of each day this week, ask yourself: Was I salt today? Was I present in a way that preserved or added something good to the people around me?