

# Sunday Centerpoint

## Key Takeaways:

1. We are ambassadors, not permanent residents - Our citizenship is in heaven, and the church is an outpost, not our final destination.
2. The church is for healing, not just comfort - We gather to be healed and equipped, then sent out to serve others.
3. Jesus came for the sick - The church should be a place where broken people find healing, not where perfect people maintain appearances.
4. We will always fail at being an oasis - When we try to make church primarily about our comfort and preferences, we'll be disappointed because this isn't heaven.
5. The Christian ideal is difficult - Following Christ authentically requires sacrifice and stepping outside our comfort zones.

## Discussion Questions:

1. When have you most clearly seen Jesus working in your life or through others?
2. What makes it difficult to see Jesus in everyday moments? What practices help you recognize His presence more consistently?
3. Who in your life has helped you discover or develop your spiritual gifts? How can you be that person for someone else?
4. The students highlighted people like Bill Brosey who serve without obligation. Who do you know that models selfless service? What can you learn from them?
5. What does "our citizenship is in heaven" mean to you? How should this truth affect how we live?
6. David stated: "The church must choose to be an outpost over an oasis." What's the difference? Which mindset do you find yourself slipping into?
7. How have you seen the church function as a "hotel" (focused on comfort & preferences) vs a "hospital" (focused on healing & sending out)? What are the dangers of each extreme?
8. The quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." How does your small group or congregation live this out? Where could you improve?

## Practical Applications:

1. Identify your embassy: What practices or places help you recharge spiritually?
2. Evaluate your expectations: Write down what you expect from church. Are these expectations focused on your comfort or on being equipped to serve others?
3. Find your mission field: Identify one place outside the church building where you can be an ambassador for Christ (work, neighborhood, hobby group, etc.).
4. Practice seeing Jesus: End each day by identifying one way you saw Jesus working in your life or through others.
5. Shift from consumer to contributor: Ask yourself weekly: "Am I treating church like a hotel (what can I get?) or a hospital (how can I heal and help others heal)?"
6. Remember you're not home yet: When frustrated with imperfections in church or life, remind yourself that Hebrews 13:14 says we're seeking the city that is to come.

