Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Prepare your heart before you prepare your words. The way we live speaks before we ever open our mouths. Authenticity is the foundation of effective witness.
2. Learn to recognize open doors. God places opportunities in front of us daily. The question is whether we are paying attention & willing to act when those moments arise.
3. Take the next step even when it is uncomfortable. Courage is not the absence of fear -- it is choosing faithfulness over comfort. Even apostle Paul asked others to pray for his courage.
4. We are responsible for faithfulness, not outcomes. Our job is to plant seeds. God brings the rain.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon opened with the story of the Millerites, who prepared intensely for the wrong thing. In what ways might Christians fall into a similar trap -- focusing on the wrong kind of readiness?
2. The sermon offered a brief self-assessment: Do people see Jesus in the way you respond when someone irritates you? Do your coworkers or classmates know your faith gives you hope? How does that kind of honest self-reflection make you feel? Where do you sense room for growth?
3. The sermon described several everyday moments that can become opportunities -- someone sharing a burden, expressing discouragement, or asking about your values. Think back over the past week or two. Did any moments like that come up for you? How did you respond?
4. The speaker said, "People need to know that you care before they care that you know." What does it look like practically to lead with genuine care rather than jumping straight to answers or solutions?
5. The sermon pointed out that even the apostle Paul asked for prayers that he would have the courage to share the gospel fearlessly. What does it mean to you that someone of Paul's stature still needed that kind of support? Does that change the way you think about your own hesitation?
6. The speaker listed several common fears: not knowing the answer, saying the wrong thing, damaging a relationship, or making things uncomfortable. Which of these resonates most with you personally? How have those fears kept you silent in the past?
7. The speaker said, "You don't have to have all the answers -- just take the next faithful step." What might a small next step look like for you this week in a specific relationship or setting?

Practical Applications:

1. Pray this week for three specific things: eyes to recognize opportunities, wisdom to know what to say, and courage to take the next step. As a group, are you willing to commit to that prayer together this week? Who in your life might God already be placing in front of you?