

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus is the gate of grace that grants healing and hope. He offers both salvation and ongoing restoration.
2. Church hurt is real and common. 40% of people leave church because of it, and 37% of non-churchgoers avoid church due to negative experiences.
3. Healing requires honesty about our desire to change. We must genuinely want to be healed and be willing to accept help.
4. We don't need to have everything together before coming to Christ. He only requires a desire to be healed.
5. Churches should prioritize loving people over protecting traditions. Rules without relationship lead to hurt.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is "the gate"? How is this different from other ways people try to access God or spiritual fulfillment?
2. In the sheep pen metaphor, Jesus says the sheep "know his voice." What does it look like practically to recognize and follow Jesus' voice in our daily lives?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked the invalid man, "Do you want to be healed?" Isn't the answer obvious? What might prevent someone from wanting to be healed?

Practical Applications:

1. Jesus offers "expiation" - forgiveness not only for sins we commit but also for sins committed against us. What would it look like for you to release the shame and guilt from sins others have committed against you?
2. The man at the pool said, "I have no one to put me into the pool." Who in your life needs someone to help them experience Christ's healing? How can you be that person for them?
3. How can our group commit to being a community that "loves others well" rather than one that hurts people? What specific, practical steps can we take?

