

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Gratitude realigns our perspective - When we count our blessings, we don't have time to be ungrateful or entitled.
2. God's love is unconditional: Our sonship/daughterhood isn't based on our performance but on His grace.
3. Proximity \neq Presence - Being physically present in church or Christian activities doesn't automatically mean we're experiencing God's presence.
4. Our perspective affects others - Like the Pharisees, our attitudes can either draw people to Jesus or push them away.
5. No matter how far we've wandered, God is ready to embrace us when we return.

Discussion Questions:

1. The younger son demanded his inheritance early. When have you approached God with an entitled attitude rather than a grateful heart? What led to that mindset?
2. What are three specific blessings you can thank God for right now? How does gratitude change your perspective on your circumstances?
3. The father ran to embrace the returning son. What does this tell us about God's heart toward us when we've wandered? How does this challenge or comfort you?
4. "Even though you lose your senses, you never lose your sonship." Have you ever felt like you'd gone too far to return to God? How does this truth change that feeling?
5. The younger son prepared a speech of unworthiness. Why do we sometimes struggle to accept God's full restoration rather than just His tolerance?
6. Is there an area of your life where you're living like a servant rather than a son/daughter? What would change if you fully embraced your identity in Christ?
7. The older son was physically present but emotionally distant. Can you relate to being in "proximity" to God without truly experiencing His presence? What causes this disconnect?
8. The religious leaders were upset when Jesus healed and welcomed sinners. When have you (or your church community) been more concerned with rules and resources than celebrating God's work in people's lives?
9. The Superman story illustrated how a father's words define identity. What has the world told you about who you are? What does God say about you? Which voice are you believing?

Practical Applications:

1. Gratitude Journal - Each day, write down 3-5 specific things you're thankful for. Notice how this changes your perspective by week's end.
2. Presence Over Proximity - Set aside 15 minutes daily to simply be in God's presence without asking for anything—just worship, listen, and rest in Him.
3. Perspective Check - Identify one person or situation you've judged harshly. Ask God to give you His perspective and show you how to respond with grace.
4. Come Home - If you've been distant from God, take a step back toward Him this week. Confess, repent, and receive His embrace.