

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. God cares more about the heart of the worshiper than the worship itself.
2. Performing all the right religious actions does not guarantee that God is pleased with our worship if our hearts are not in the right place.
3. Sin left unchecked in our hearts makes it increasingly difficult to see and experience God.
4. A pure heart is not something we can manufacture on our own. It requires surrendering to God and allowing Him to do the work of transformation.
5. As our hearts grow purer, we begin to see God working in ways and in places we never noticed before.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jason opened with a story about checking social media after a baptism and realizing the motivation behind the post had shifted. Think of a time when you started something with a genuine, good-hearted motivation but found yourself caring more about how it looked to others? What did that reveal to you about your heart in that moment?
2. In Genesis 4, both Cain & Abel brought offerings to God, yet God responded differently to each of them. Hebrews 11:4 points to the righteousness of Abel as the distinguishing factor. What does it mean to you that God looks past the outward offering and straight to the heart of the one giving it? How does that challenge or encourage you?
3. Jason stated: "Cain brought a harvest, but Abel brought his heart." In your own spiritual life, what does it look like to bring your harvest versus bringing your heart? What is the difference in practice?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 5:8 that the pure in heart will see God. The sermon suggested that as our hearts grow purer, we begin noticing God in everyday moments & circumstances we previously overlooked. Has there been a season in your life when you felt like you could see God more clearly? What was different about your heart during that time?
5. Jason asked: "What if we stopped caring about who got the credit and only cared about the cross?" How does jealousy or resentment over someone else's blessings reveal something about the condition of our own hearts? How do you personally work through those feelings when they arise?

Practical Applications:

1. Each morning this week, take two minutes to ask yourself:
 - a. Am I doing this for myself or for God and His kingdom?
 - b. Am I more motivated by how I look to others or by what Jesus did for me on the cross?
2. End the two-minute audit with this prayer from Psalm 51:10, asking God to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you. Let that be your daily surrender.

