

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law, not its contradiction. Rather than abolishing Scripture, Jesus embodied and completed it. His healing of the leper in Matthew 8 illustrates that fulfilling the law goes far deeper than rule-keeping — it reflects the heart behind the law.
2. Every promise of God will come to pass. Jesus declared that not even the smallest part of Scripture will fail. Estimates suggest there are around 7,500 promises in Scripture, and every single one of them will be fulfilled — even when we are still in the waiting.
3. We cannot pick and choose Scripture to fit our agenda. Throughout history, people have used Scripture selectively to justify harmful ends. Jesus calls His followers to submit to the whole of Scripture rather than use it as a tool for their own purposes.
4. Knowing what the Bible says is not the same as knowing what the Bible means. The Pharisees are a sobering example of people who mastered the text but missed the point entirely. Context, humility, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit are essential to understanding Scripture rightly.
5. Righteousness is not a status we achieve — it is a Savior we receive. No amount of rule-following can earn entrance into the kingdom of heaven. It is only through Christ and His righteousness that we are made right before God.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon opened with the idea that a pastor's role is "to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable." Which of those two functions do you find more welcome in your own life, and why?
2. Jesus says that not even the smallest part of Scripture will pass away until all is accomplished. What does that level of confidence in Scripture stir up in you?
3. The sermon described how Scripture has been misused throughout history to justify harmful agendas. Where do you think you personally have been tempted to read the Bible in a way that confirms what you already believe rather than challenges you?
4. The sermon mentioned that one of our struggles is not doubting God's promises but struggling with the waiting. What promise from God are you currently in a season of waiting on?
5. The song lyrics quoted in the sermon include the line, "I know how the story ends." How does knowing the outcome of God's story change the way you experience uncertainty?
6. Where in your life do you feel the most "comfortable" spiritually right now? Is that comfort a sign of genuine peace, or could it be a sign of stagnation?

Practical Applications:

1. Read without an agenda. Pick a passage of Scripture you have read many times before. Before you read, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you something you have missed or something that needs to change in you. Write down what surfaces.
2. Audit a belief. Identify one conviction or opinion you hold that you have connected to Scripture. Take time this week to study that passage in its full context. Ask yourself honestly whether the text supports your view or whether you have been reading your view into the text.
3. Sit with a promise. Choose one of God's promises from Scripture that feels distant or hard to believe right now. Write it down, pray over it each day this week, and journal what the Holy Spirit brings to the surface as you do.