

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaways:

1. Religion vs. Relationship: God desires genuine relationship, not just religious performance
2. Kingdom Diversity: God's kingdom is open to all people, regardless of race, economics, or background
3. Impossible Made Possible: Through Christ, the impossible (including forgiveness) becomes possible
4. Warning Against Hypocrisy: A faith that looks good externally but lacks fruit risks being cursed

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree? What was He trying to teach His disciples about appearance versus substance?
2. What does it mean to be "in leaf but lacking fruit"? How might this apply to our personal faith or church communities today?
3. The temple looked religious but was corrupt. What are some ways modern Christianity can fall into the trap of being "leafy" without bearing real fruit?
4. Jesus said the temple should be "a house of prayer for all nations." How does this challenge common attitudes about who belongs in God's kingdom?
5. Jason stated: "We have more in common with a Christian who is different from us than a non-Christian who is similar to us." Do you agree? Why is this hard to live out?
6. Discuss this quote: "When we choose comfort in the status quo over scripture's call to be ambassadors of reconciliation and co-laborers with Christ, we sin."
7. Where might we be choosing comfort over God's call to diversity?
8. What barriers (cultural, economic, racial, political) exist in our community that prevent diverse people from feeling welcomed? What can we do about them?
9. Jesus connects impossible situations with prayer. What "mountains" in your life seem impossible right now? How does prayer factor into your response?
10. Why does Jesus immediately follow His teaching on faith with teaching on forgiveness? What's the connection?
11. Jason stated, forgiveness becomes easier when we realize what Christ has done for us. How does understanding God's forgiveness of us change our ability to forgive others?

Practical Applications:

1. Grab coffee or lunch or invite someone to your house that is different from you
2. Journal about areas where you might be "in leaf but lacking fruit"
3. Identify one "impossible" situation and commit to praying about it daily
4. Attend a church or community event outside your normal comfort zone
5. Volunteer at an organization that serves people different from you

