

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Cole addresses the issue of distraction in our spiritual lives. He uses Acts 8:9-24, which tells the story of Simon the sorcerer, to illustrate how Satan uses distractions to pull us away from Jesus. The pastor emphasizes that distraction is a seed of destruction, and when we're distracted from God, we need discernment to recognize truth, the declaration of truth in our lives, and the power of the Holy Spirit to deliver us from these distractions. The sermon concludes by emphasizing that deliverance from distraction is a product of God's grace, not something we can earn.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Lord, we confess that we are easily distracted people, and we need Your help to stay focused on what truly matters. Guide our conversation, reveal Your truth, and help us to recognize the areas where we've allowed distractions to pull us away from You. We surrender this time to You, in Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most embarrassing or funny moment you've had when you were distracted by something (like walking into a room and forgetting why, making a wrong turn while driving, etc.)?

Key Verses

1. Acts 8:9-11
2. Acts 8:12-13
3. Acts 8:14-17
4. Acts 8:20-22
5. Romans 1:25

Questions

1. The pastor said 'distraction is a seed of destruction.' What are some spiritual distractions in your life that have the potential to pull you away from Jesus?
2. How can we tell the difference between harmless distractions and those that are spiritually dangerous?
3. In what ways do you see our culture promoting things that 'look like God but are not' as the pastor described?
4. The sermon mentioned that we need discernment and the declaration of truth to combat spiritual distraction. What practices help you develop spiritual discernment?
5. How has being in community with other believers helped you stay focused on Jesus when you've been spiritually distracted?
6. The pastor emphasized that the Holy Spirit provides the power we need to overcome distractions. Can you share a time when you experienced the Spirit's power helping you refocus on God?

Life Application

This week, identify your primary spiritual distraction - the thing that most consistently pulls your attention away from Jesus. Once you've identified it, commit to two actions: First, confess this distraction to God in prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit's power to overcome it. Second, share this distraction with at least one trusted believer who can pray for you and speak truth into your life. Each day, intentionally set aside 10 minutes to focus solely on Jesus through prayer or Scripture reading, asking Him to help you recognize and resist the distractions that keep you from experiencing His presence fully.

Key Takeaways

1. Distraction is a seed of destruction - when we're distracted from Jesus, it opens the door for the enemy to deceive and destroy us.
2. To overcome spiritual distraction, we need discernment to recognize truth and we need the truth of God's Word declared in our lives.
3. The Holy Spirit provides the power we need to break free from whatever is distracting us from Jesus.
4. No person or place is beyond the reach of the gospel - we should never give up on sharing Christ with others.
5. Deliverance from distraction is a product of God's grace, not something we can earn or buy.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your amazing grace that reaches beyond our sin and distractions. We confess that we are prone to wander and easily pulled away from focusing on You. Thank You for Your patience with us. Holy Spirit, we invite Your power to work in our lives this week, helping us identify and overcome the distractions that keep us from intimacy with Jesus. Give us discernment to recognize truth from lies, and surround us with people who will speak Your truth into our lives. May we walk in the freedom that comes from fixing our eyes on You rather than the distractions of this world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.