

Summary

This sermon explores the desire of King David to have his presence in the house of the Lord be the one thing he desired above all else. While the model of the temple worship no longer exists, the heart of being near to God, gathered with his people in the local church still remains a priority of God for all believers. There are a number of factors today that keep people from prioritizing church, but the reasons to stay connected with the Body of Christ are too great to ignore.

This week also marks "Ownership Sunday", inviting everyone of participation at Living Water as an "owner" pursuing three commitments: to Grow- through large and small group interactions, to Serve- by letting God use you for His Purposes, to Give- by trusting God and stewarding every portion of your life including finances.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together, we thank You for bringing us into community with one another. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through this discussion. Help us to be honest about our relationship with Your church and our commitment to the body of Christ. Give us wisdom to see where You are calling us to grow, and grant us the courage to take steps toward deeper community and faith. We pray that Your Spirit would guide our conversation and draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most ridiculous thing you've ever forgotten to buy at the grocery store when you went specifically to get that one item?

Key Verses

1. Psalm 27:4
2. 1 Corinthians 3:16
3. Luke 11:23
4. 1 Corinthians 12:12
5. Ephesians 5
6. Psalm 92:13

Questions

1. David's 'one thing' was to dwell in God's house all the days of his life. If you had to identify your 'one thing' that you ask of God, what would it be?

2. Pastor Jason mentioned that only 20% of Christians attend church regularly. What do you think are the biggest barriers that keep Christians from prioritizing church attendance?
3. How do you respond to the idea that faith can be personal but shouldn't be private? What's the difference between these two concepts?
4. The sermon compared disconnected Christians to body parts separated from the body. How have you experienced the life-giving power of being connected to a church community?
5. What are the advantages and limitations of online church versus in-person gathering? How can we use online tools while still prioritizing physical community?
6. Pastor Jason acknowledged that churches are full of imperfect people and hypocrites. How do we balance grace for human weakness with holding each other accountable for growth?
7. If you've been hurt by a church or church people in the past, how do you distinguish between the actions of individuals and the body of Christ as a whole?
8. What does it mean to be 'planted' in the house of the Lord rather than just attending occasionally? How might this change your approach to church involvement?

Life Application

This week, evaluate your current level of investment in church community. Choose one specific way to deepen your connection - whether that's joining a small group, volunteering to serve, attending more consistently, or reaching out to build a relationship with someone in your church family. Take one concrete step toward being 'planted' rather than just attending.

Key Takeaways

1. David's 'one thing' was to dwell in God's house, and the New Testament equivalent is active participation in the local church body
2. Faith can be personal but was never meant to be private - we need community to protect us from spiritual scattering
3. The church is like a body where every part needs connection to survive and thrive
4. Online church can be a helpful tool but shouldn't replace physical gathering and real relationships
5. Churches are hospitals for broken people, not country clubs for perfect ones - hypocrisy exists but transformation is the goal
6. Being 'planted' in God's house means deep investment in growing, serving, and giving within the church community

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your church and for calling us into community with one another. Help us to see the church not as an obligation but as a place where we can experience Your presence powerfully and grow in our faith. For those who have been hurt by church experiences, we pray for healing and the courage to try again. For those who have been casual in their commitment, give them a heart to be planted and to flourish in Your house. Show us how to grow together, serve one another, and give generously of our lives. May we be a church that reflects Your love and grace to a watching world. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.