



Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

Pastor Rob Paugh's sermon, "The Danger of Losing Your Spiritual Balance," stresses the significance of maintaining spiritual equilibrium and avoiding legalistic approaches. Drawing from personal experiences with rental properties, Pastor Rob highlights the importance of preparation and balance in navigating unexpected challenges. Using the parable in Matthew 12:43-45, he critiques the Pharisees' rigid adherence to laws, emphasizing the need for both purity and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, Pastor Rob urges the congregation to focus on emulating Jesus and showing love rather than judgment towards others.

Ice Breaker

If you could switch lives with a fictional character for a day, who would it be and why?

Discussion Questions

How can focusing solely on avoiding sin hinder our spiritual growth?

- Pastor Rob explained that holiness involves both avoiding sin and becoming more like Jesus. Focusing only on not sinning can lead to self-righteousness and judgmental attitudes, as seen with the Pharisees.

- In what areas of your life do you find yourself only trying to avoid sin, instead of also striving to become more like Jesus?

Using Matthew 12:43-45 as a reference, how does Jesus' message to the Pharisees relate to maintaining spiritual balance?

- Pastor Rob mentioned that Jesus used this parable to condemn the Pharisees' religion, which focused on strict adherence to rules rather than a relationship with God. This example serves as a warning against losing spiritual balance.
- What steps can you take to maintain a healthy balance between following the rules and nurturing your personal relationship with God?

Why is it important to be known for our Christlikeness rather than our opposition to certain behaviors?

- Pastor Rob mentioned that he wants the congregation to be known for striving to be like Jesus and loving others, not just for what they are against. This attitude fosters unity and compassion within the church community.
- How can you show the love of Jesus to others in your daily life, even in situations where you might disagree with their choices or behaviors?

What are some practical ways to shift our focus from simply not sinning to actively becoming more like Jesus?

- Pastor Rob used the analogy of learning to drive, advising that we should look down the road to where we want to go, not just where we want to avoid. This mindset allows for better control and anticipation of obstacles in our spiritual journey.
- What habits or activities can you incorporate into your daily routine to foster growth in Christlikeness?

How can losing spiritual balance negatively impact our relationships with others?

- Pastor Rob emphasized that losing spiritual balance can lead to self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, and judgmental attitudes towards others, distancing us from those we are called to love and serve.
- Can you recall a time when you were judgmental towards someone else? How might this have impacted your relationship with them and your opportunity to show them the love of Jesus?

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests.
- • Ask God to help us rely on His strength rather than our own efforts.
- • Seek guidance to avoid judgmental attitudes and to love others like Jesus.
- • Pray for the Holy Spirit to continually fill us and guide our actions.