

Sermon One: Out of Order

Intro: (Video)

Welcome

Series Intro: For many people they think Christianity is believing in Jesus so I can go to heaven one day, It's better than that. For many people they think Christianity is about knowing what's right and doing what's right. It's better than that, it's more than that. When people reduce Christianity to a path to heaven, theology or behavior then it doesn't work, it feels broken, it does not address the issues or questions we are dealing with here and now.

- *Why Are Relationships So Hard?*
- *Does My Life Really Matter?*
- *Why Am I So Tired?*
- *What If My Life Doesn't Go as Planned?*
- *Will I Ever Have Enough?*
- *Why Can't I Change?*

This is a great opportunity for all of us to invite a friend. Next week is actually National back to church Sunday so we are going to use this series to address the questions your friends, the people you know and love our asking. Today, I want to answer this question:

Why Isn't My Life Working?

Read: Psalm 1:1-3

1. A Promise. Psalm 1:1a

Explain: God is good. God is generous. God wants us to be blessed. Consider the story of the Bible. God creates the heavens and the earth, creates Adam and Eve and places them in a garden paradise. Why? To bless them, to be with them, to enjoy them forever.

What went wrong? Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sin. Sin brings disorder into God's good creation. The story of the Bible is God working throughout human history to redeem what sin has broken and ultimately restore all of creation.

Illustrate: Parenting. We want to reproduce and share our lives with our kids. We want them to flourish. I love watching them grow, develop their gifts, make good decisions, build relationships, and become who God created them to be. When they hurt, I hurt. When they struggle, I want to help. When they flourish, I delight in it. That is what a good father does.

Argue: Joshua 1:8, James 1:25

Apply: Do you believe God is good? Will you follow His path? **John 3:16**, communion

2. Two Paths. Psalm 1:1b-2

Explain: Notice the progression. **Walk → Stand → Sit or Think → Live → Become.** We are all being formed. We are all on a path.

Who or what is forming you?

- Social media forms us.
- Entertainment forms us.
- Politics forms us.
- Friends form us.
- Our families form us.
- Our wounds form us.
- Culture forms us

Think- Behave- Become- Produce. Who you become determines what you can produce.

Verse 2: “But his delight is in the law of the LORD...” Not information but formation.
I read → I meditate → I internalize → I obey → I am becoming. There is no other way.

Illustrate: Magic! God fix it for me.

Illustrate: Marriage- If my immaturity breaks my marriage only my maturity can heal and strengthen it. As I matured, my marriage matured.

- **Thinking:** Divorce is not a good choice, a great marriage is worth fighting for.
- **Behavior:** Moved, counseling, mentor, SG, doing what I was learning
- **Become:** Loving Tina is like breathing. I can't not love her well
- **Produce-** 30 years, 30 years to go.

Two Paths: Marriage is optional, fix my spouse, selfish, broken promises and people.

Quote: God's goal is abundance His method is formation.

Argue: John 10:10

Apply: Marriage. Kids. Work. Money. School. Schedules. Health. Dinner. Activities. These are all screaming for our attention. We are working on all these things but not working on our own soul, our spiritual roots. If we focus on the root and let God produce the fruit?

3. The Product. Verse 3

Explain: The psalmist gives us a picture, a metaphor. He describes the blessed life, an abundant life, as a mature tree.

- **Rooted (planted):** A tree begins by growing roots. Before anything goes up, roots go down. The most important work often happens where no one can see it. 20% of a tree is below the surface. This tree is not moved by the storm.
- **Nourished (streams):** A tree planted beside streams of water. It has a source deeper than its circumstances. **John 7:37-** fountain of living water.

Your life can be busy without your soul being chaotic.

Groups!!!! Where we learn spiritual practices that teach you how to nourish your soul.

- **Fruitful (fruit):** A tree that produces fruit, **in season**.
 - Marriage this week- stressed, frustrated, words, how do I respond?
 - Friend- Hurt, confused, how do I respond?
 - Child- makes a poor decision, how do I respond?
 - Lonely- Some of my closest friends moved- how do I respond?
- **Resilient (leaf does not wither):** A tree that can survive drought. Storms come, but the tree stands. Abundant life does not mean no storms or drought. However, the tree is tapping into a deeper source, the river of life.
- **Prosperity-** Fruit- faithfully and fruitfully doing what God calls me to do.

Two paths: Psalm 1:4-6, John 10:10

Where do we begin?

Psalm 92:13, “The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age. They will stay fresh and green.” (NIV)

Apply: Be here for the next six weeks. Join a group. Join a team. Get planted in the house of the Lord!

Communion- we are His family

Tend to the roots. Give God enough time to grow something.

Next week is national back to church Sunday, bring a friend, arrive early, fill in every seat

Monthly Practice: Prayer