

AIM YOUR LIFE AT WHAT MATTERS MOST!

Scripture used: [John 1:14 \(NIV\)](#); [John 14:27 \(NIV\)](#); [Matthew 5-7 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Guest Pastor Christian Huang—Chaplain for the San Francisco Giants and Executive Director of Mobilize Love—shared a powerful message shaped by his own brush with mortality. In 2022, he underwent unexpected heart surgery and realized he had never prepared for the possibility of death. Facing that moment forced him to examine what his life was truly aimed at. He found peace only when he released his grip on staying alive and entrusted his future entirely to God. Pastor Christian challenged us to consider whether the lives we are building are aligned with God's purpose or quietly drifting off course. God alone defines what life is about. He made us for eternity, placed that longing within us, and formed us to live tethered to Him and grounded in community. When we aim our lives at what matters most, our everyday actions gain eternal significance.

KEY POINTS

1. **Ways We Mis-Live (Aiming at the Wrong Things).** These patterns are subtle, socially acceptable, even celebrated—but they move our lives away from God's purpose.
 - a. **Mis-aimed success:** We can spend years chasing goals that ultimately do not matter—career milestones, accolades, wealth, or personal achievements that have no eternal weight. Success becomes a trap when we pursue it without asking whether God values what we value. Pastor Christian reminded us that it is entirely possible to “win” at life while failing at what matters most.
 - b. **Self-glorification:** This is the impulse to build our name rather than Jesus' name. It shows up in our desire to be known, admired, or affirmed. Self-glorification is not always loud—it can be quiet, inward, and respectable—but it orients life around *our* reputation instead of God's glory. When we chase our own spotlight, we dim the light of Christ.
 - c. **Living autonomously:** Our culture celebrates independence as the highest virtue, but autonomy can become a spiritual idol. It convinces us that we do not need God or His people. Scripture and experience tell us the opposite: we were made for dependence on God and connection with community. Like the disciples in John 21 who drifted back to fishing the moment Jesus died, we naturally lose our way when we are not tethered.
2. **Ways We Should Live (Aiming at What Matters Most).** Correct aim requires intentional practices shaped by Jesus' example and teaching.
 - a. **Aim at showing up:** God shows up *in person*—Jesus “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14, NIV). Showing up means being present, attentive, and compassionate in real time. It is how God loves us, and how we are called to love others. This kind of presence requires margin, humility, and a willingness to move toward people rather than loving from afar.
 - b. **Aim at creating shalom:** Shalom is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the fullness of life as God intended—wholeness, flourishing, harmony with God and with others. Jesus gives a peace “not as the world gives” (John 14:27, NIV). Creating shalom involves peacemaking, reconciliation, truth-telling, generosity, and ordering our lives according to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). It turns ordinary moments into opportunities for God's kingdom to break through.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We are all building something with our lives, whether intentionally or not. Pastor Christian reminded us that the deepest tragedy is not death—it is living a mis-aimed life. God created us for eternity and calls us to live tethered to Him and rooted in community. When we intentionally show up and work for God's peace, our daily choices take on eternal meaning. When you think about your current season of life, what does it feel like your life is mostly aimed at right now?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Where might your ambitions or habits be mis-aimed—successful in the world's eyes but empty in God's eyes? What would it look like to build your life around *doing* Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5–7, not simply knowing it?
- 3) **DO** - Show up for someone this week. Be intentionally present—listen, serve, or encourage in a way that reflects Christ's nearness.