

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

CANCER: NOT A DEATH SENTENCE BUT A LIFE SENTENCE

JOHN 10:10 | REV. MIKE TRINIDAD

In what is often referred to as "The Great Shepherd Discourse" in John 10, Jesus instructed the Pharisees on how the sheep enter the sheep pen, and that is, through the gate. He went on further to give a warning that anyone who enters by any other way is a thief and a robber (v. 1). On the other hand, the Shepherd walks right up to the gate and the gatekeeper opens the gate to Him and the sheep immediately recognize His voice and they follow His commands (v. 2). They will not follow a stranger's voice, but only the Shepherd's because they are not familiar with the stranger (v. 5). Jesus spoke explicitly and referred to Himself as the gate for the sheep. He is the (only) way to the Father. He takes care of

the sheep and leads them to find green, abundant pasture. In this passage, we find Jesus as both the Shepherd and the Gate (the way). In John 14:6, Jesus said, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** Jesus Himself said this. Indeed, there is no other way to the Father, but through Jesus Christ alone.

The stark contrast by which Jesus compares himself to false teachers makes the choice on who to follow in life so easy. Let not the enemy deceive you. Choose to follow the Great Shepherd and no one else!

During times of extreme adversity and uncertainty, it is important to know Jesus Christ for He alone is

the source of hope in life. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY**" (v.10). Leave the life of emptiness and despair and live the full, abundant life that Jesus promises to the faithful believer.

It is my desire to encourage you to deepen your faith in God so that you may be able to live life as God designed it, that no matter how difficult the circumstances, you can live a full life because of your faith in Jesus Christ. Have faith in Jesus - He gives us a full, abundant life!✳

A LIFE CENTERED ON JESUS

T. MIR MONROY

Making Jesus the center of our lives is both essential and challenging in today's fast-paced world. We juggle careers, family responsibilities, and other commitments, often at the expense of our relationship with Him. The demands of professional success, for instance, can push our focus on Jesus aside as we prioritize career goals and recognition. Long hours at work and the pressure to succeed can subtly take our attention away from our spiritual walk.

Family life can also make it difficult to keep Jesus at the center. Between parenting, managing a household, and fulfilling social obligations, daily responsibilities often feel overwhelming. Parents, especially, may become so focused on their children's needs that they neglect their own spiritual growth. Similarly, the influence of social media and digital entertainment can consume hours of our day. We might spend more time scrolling through feeds or watching TV shows than nurturing our relationship with Jesus. Without intentional effort, our focus on Him fades.

Yet, keeping Jesus at the center is crucial. When we prioritize Him, everything else in life finds balance. As Colossians 1:16 reminds us, "All things were created through Him and for Him." A Christ-centered life doesn't eliminate challenges, but it provides a firm foundation. With Jesus at the core, we can face life's highs and lows with peace, resilience, and hope. His

peace helps us manage stress and anxiety because our lives are anchored in Him, not in fleeting circumstances.

A life centered on Jesus also shapes our character. As we align our lives with His teachings and example, we grow in love, patience, humility, and kindness. These qualities influence our relationships, decisions, and overall outlook on life. When Jesus is at the center, we're better equipped to love others, make wise choices, and find joy in the everyday moments.

To make Jesus the center of our lives, we must prioritize our personal relationship with Him. This begins with intentional time for prayer, worship, and Bible study. Jesus Himself made time to pray and connect with God, even when surrounded by demands. In John 15:5, He says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit." Following His example, we can ground ourselves in His wisdom and strength each day. Starting the morning in prayer and reflecting on Scripture helps set our focus on Him before the busyness of the day takes over. This time renews our hearts and aligns our minds with His perspective.

Another way to keep Jesus at the center is by allowing Him to guide our decisions and actions. Living with Jesus at the core means seeking His will in every area of life, whether big or small. It may be pausing to ask for guidance before making a decision at work or surrendering personal ambitions to follow His plan. In Colossians 3:17, we're reminded to "do everything

in the name of the Lord Jesus." When we center our actions on Him, we gain clarity and wisdom that align us with God's desires.

Being part of a community of believers also helps keep Jesus central. Engaging with a church or small group provides accountability, encouragement, and fellowship. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to "stir up one another to love and good works." In this shared environment, we can support each other in living Christ-centered lives.

When Jesus is the center of our lives, He becomes the foundation of everything we do—our routines, decisions, and relationships. This focus doesn't just transform our spiritual lives; it permeates every area, from family and work to personal growth and peace. By making time for Him, allowing Him to influence our choices, and remaining rooted in a community of faith, we can navigate life with a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment, knowing that everything else falls into place when Jesus is at the center.

This week, take one intentional step to make Jesus more central in your life. Start each morning with prayer and reflection, asking Jesus to guide your day. Identify one area where He may not be your focus—perhaps in your work, relationships, or daily habits—and invite Him into that space. As you do, notice how centering your life on Him brings peace, purpose, and clarity. ✳

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