"Keeping Jesus at the Center"

Discussion Guide: Inspired By Pastor Willie Joe Lightfoot Sr.

Summary
In this sermon, Pastor Will continues a three-part series called "The Jesus Series," focusing on keeping Jesus at the center of our commitment. Drawing from Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 1:22, the message emphasizes that Jesus is not merely an advisor or consultant in our lives but the head of the church and the Lord of all things. Just as a head directs the body, Jesus must have preeminence in every area of our lives, including our decisions, relationships, finances, and daily priorities. Pastor Will highlights that the greatest challenge facing believers today is not persecution or outright rebellion, but distraction and misplaced priorities. Life's responsibilities, schedules, and the constant pull of technology and culture can slowly crowd Jesus out from the center of our lives. The sermon calls believers to realign their commitment to Christ, reminding them that when Jesus is truly at the center, everything else finds its proper perspective and God's blessings follow. The altar call was framed not as condemnation but as an invitation to realignment, urging people to return to Jesus as their first love.

Intro Prayer
Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather together, we ask that You would quiet the noise of our busy lives and help us to focus on what truly matters. Lord, we acknowledge that distractions are real and that our priorities can easily drift. We ask that Your Holy Spirit would guide our conversation today, and that You would speak directly to each person in this group. Let us not simply discuss Your Word, but let it transform us. May we leave this time more committed to keeping You at the center of everything we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker
What is one thing in your daily routine that you do consistently without fail, no matter how busy life gets?

Key Verses

- Colossians 1:18
- Ephesians 1:22
- Matthew 6:33

Questions

- Pastor Will said that many people have not stopped attending church or praying, but life has crowded Jesus out. Have you ever experienced a season where Jesus was present in your life but not truly first? What did that look like?
- Colossians 1:18 says Jesus is the head of the body, the church. What is the difference between treating Jesus as an advisor or consultant versus treating Him as Lord and head of your life?
- The sermon used the image of a fulcrum on a seesaw to describe how Jesus at the center brings balance. In what areas of your life do you most need that kind of balance right now?
- Pastor Will stated that the greatest battle today is not wickedness but distraction. Do you agree with that? What distractions most commonly pull your focus away from God?
- Matthew 6:33 promises that when we seek God first, all things will be added to us. Can you share a time when putting God first led to unexpected blessings or a sense of things falling into place?
- The sermon described how whatever gets our attention eventually gets our affection. What currently receives most of your attention, and does that reflect where your affection truly lies?
- Pastor Will described the altar call as a moment of realignment, not condemnation. Is there an area of your life right now that feels out of alignment with God? What would it look like to bring that back to Him?
- The message closed with the challenge that Jesus wants first place not just on Sundays or in ministry, but in our homes, decisions, relationships, and finances. Which of those areas is the hardest for you to surrender to Him, and why?

Life Application
This week, take a practical step toward keeping Jesus at the center of your daily life. Each morning before checking your phone, social media, or email, spend at least five minutes in prayer or reading Scripture. At the end of each day, ask yourself this simple question: Was Jesus first today in my thoughts, my words, and my choices? If the answer is no, take a moment to realign through prayer before you go to sleep. Consider sharing this practice with someone in your group so you can encourage and hold each other accountable throughout the week.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus must have preeminence in all things, not just in our church attendance or Sunday worship, but in every decision, relationship, and priority of our daily lives.

- Whatever sits at the center of your life will direct the course of your life. When Jesus is at the center, He brings balance and perspective to every area, including health, finances, relationships, and purpose.
- The greatest battle facing believers today is not persecution but distraction. The enemy knows that a distracted believer is a diminished believer, and he uses busyness, technology, and misplaced priorities to move Jesus from first place to simply being present.
- When we seek God first, His promise is that all things will be added to us. There are real and tangible benefits to making Jesus the foundation of everything we build.
- God's invitation is always one of realignment, not condemnation. Like a car that needs its wheels realigned after hitting a pothole, we can return to Jesus at any time and ask Him to restore our focus and commitment.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that has challenged and encouraged us today. We confess that life is busy and that distractions are real, and we ask for Your forgiveness for the times we have allowed other things to take the place that belongs only to You. Right now, as a group, we surrender our priorities, our schedules, our relationships, and our hearts back to You. Help each person here to walk out of this time with a renewed commitment to keep You at the center, not just in conversation, but in the daily choices of life. Where we have drifted, realign us. Where we have been distracted, refocus us. And where we have forgotten Your goodness, remind us of how far You have brought us. May You have first place in our homes, our decisions, and our lives this week and every week. In Jesus' name, Amen.