

2026-03-01 Points

Title: Beyond Consumerism: Living with Brokenness and Holiness Before Our Consuming God

Sermon Summary:

This sermon challenges the American church's consumer mentality toward Christianity, calling believers to embrace brokenness and authentic faith rather than treating God as a service provider. Using the account of the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet in Luke 7, the pastor contrasts two approaches to faith: Simon the Pharisee's self-righteous consumerism versus the woman's humble, broken worship. The message emphasizes that salvation requires genuine brokenness before Christ, not mere intellectual assent or religious performance. The pastor warns against treating grace as a license for casual Christianity, reminding listeners that God is a "consuming fire" who demands holiness. True faith is demonstrated through action, surrender, and ongoing transformation—not just a one-time decision. The sermon calls believers to move beyond seeking what God can do for them and instead ask what they can do for God, living with reverence, passion, and readiness for Christ's return.

Key Points:

- American Christianity has shifted toward consumerism, treating God as a provider of blessings rather than Lord deserving worship
- The sinful woman's brokenness and undignified worship exemplifies true faith that saves, contrasting with Simon's religious self-righteousness
- Salvation requires brokenness—recognizing our sinfulness and desperate need for Christ rather than justifying ourselves
- Faith must be accompanied by action; genuine conversion transforms how we live, not just what we believe
- God is a consuming fire who demands holiness; grace should not be insulted by presuming upon it
- We cannot design our own version of God or heaven; we must submit to who God actually is as revealed in Scripture
- Suffering and persecution are promised to believers, not constant comfort and blessing

- Without holiness, no one will see the Lord—this is a serious warning for those who claim faith
- The church needs each other for accountability and encouragement; independent Christianity contradicts biblical teaching
- We should live with awareness that Christ could return at any moment, preparing ourselves and others

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 7:36-50 (primary text: the sinful woman anointing Jesus' feet)
- Hebrews 10:19-39 (confidence to enter God's presence, warning against deliberate sin)
- Hebrews 12:14-29 (pursue holiness, God as consuming fire, receiving an unshakable kingdom)
- Matthew 25 (whatever you did to the least of these)
- Isaiah (Messiah described as root out of dry ground)
- 1 Samuel (God looks at the heart, not outward appearance)

Stories:

- The pastor's conversation with his wife Julie about who will die first, trusting God's timing
- Steve and Kim Ellis traveling to the Holy Land during Middle East conflict, demonstrating faith without fear
- The pastor's brother telling him to preach shorter sermons, then experiencing conviction at 45 minutes when his heart was broken
- The pastor's experience at Bible college learning to read himself into Scripture as a novel rather than a textbook
- The pastor's father welcoming guests with "we're not Better Homes and Gardens, we got the lived-in look"
- Esau selling his birthright for a single meal and later seeking blessing with tears but being rejected
- Moses trembling with fear at God's presence on Mount Sinai
- Cornelius in Acts 10 who had it together but knew he still needed something and sent for Peter
- The thief on the cross (referenced in context of people selectively choosing examples of salvation)