

1. **Launcher:** What pressures or opposition have you experienced for your faith?

2. **Worship God** – Philippians 3:7-12

Worship the LORD for His holiness and perfect integrity. Praise Him, rather, Son and Holy Spirit, that He perfectly embodies all that He commands, and utterly holds fast to all that He promises.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “David & Absalom, Part 1”**

**Whose Joy Are You Seeking?**

- What does it mean to have heart loyalty or faithfulness in Christ?
- If a leader heard you were on their team, would they rejoice or dread? (Think about this rhetorically). What do these emotions from a leader demonstrate about your loyalty?
- What does hearty loyalty look like in parenting? In marriage? At work? In social groups?

**A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing**

- How can we be seduced into the pursuit of image over substance?
- What does the cultivation of image produce? Look at Absalom, what did he look like, both on the outside and the inside?
- Do you have practices set up where you are cultivating your character and fighting the sin of image? If so, what are they? If not, what could they be?

**Bearing Up Under Persecution**

- Why can Jesus motivate us to faithful allegiance even through persecution?
- What was David’s true north? Despite his failures, where did the compass of his heart always turn? In what way did he cultivate this kind of allegiance/loyalty? What were his practices?
- Jesus faithfulness and loyalty secures us how? Will his loyalty let go of us? What does that produce for our loyalty towards him by the work of the Spirit?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

- I. Worship the LORD for His holiness and perfect integrity. Praise Him, rather, Son and Holy Spirit, that He perfectly embodies all that He commands, and utterly holds fast to all that He promises.
  - II. How have you lived more committed to a good appearance than to good character? Confess your selfish corruption to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change your heart to be truly and joyfully loyal to Him.
  - III. Give thanks to Jesus for his gracious love to save selfish, disloyal people like us! Thank Him for doing what no one else could do, and for being what no one else can be.
  - IV. Who do you know that pursues an attractive image more than they pursue true character? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy on them as He has on you, and that He would graciously transform their hearts.
  - V. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, goodness and faithfulness. Pray that He would work in your heart that you would gladly give up your pursuit of things that do not satisfy in order to pursue Jesus.
5. **Mission:** We are on mission as Christians to actively count all we have as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing our Lord Jesus! His loyalty to us is an intimacy that totally transforms our loyalties, and we must ask the Spirit to help us cultivate practices of worship that remind our hearts of his great love.