



W O R D O F L I F E C H U R C H

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Depart From Me • Pastor Brian Zahnd • July 19, 2026

1. What's one mistake you've made that ultimately helped you grow?
2. Have you ever had a moment when you became deeply aware of your own limitations?

Read Matthew 7:23

3. If our ultimate calling is not only union with God but also becoming our true selves, how does this affect how we live today?
4. Why is it so difficult for people to be honest with themselves?
5. Elder Zosima warns that lying to ourselves eventually makes us unable to recognize the truth. Where do you see that happening in our culture? Where might it happen in your life?
6. Thomas Merton writes, "Every one of us is shadowed by an illusory person: a false self. This is the man that I want myself to be but who cannot exist, because God does not know anything about him. And to be unknown of God is altogether too much privacy. My false self is the one who wants to exist outside the reach of God's will and God's love—outside of reality and outside of life. And such a self cannot help but be an illusion."

What are some ways people construct a false self today?

7. The judgment of God is God's love revealing what is real. How is that different from the way judgment is often portrayed?
8. If God is patiently forming you into your true self, what is one false belief, habit, or fear you sense he may be asking you to leave behind?