

08-30-26 - Discussion Questions

The sermon describes a distinction between head knowledge and experiential knowledge of God -- in what ways have you personally moved from simply knowing facts about God to genuinely experiencing Him in your daily life?

Jesus entered his hometown with what seems to have been an expectation that those who knew him best would receive him most openly, yet they rejected him -- how does familiarity sometimes become a barrier to recognizing God at work in the people and circumstances around us?

The pastor suggests that a lack of faith among the people of Jesus' hometown actually limited the miracles he could perform there -- what does this imply about the relationship between a community's collective faith and what God is able to do through and for that community?

Mark 5 describes a crowd that shifted from loud mourning to mocking laughter the moment Jesus spoke truth about the young girl -- how do you respond when someone speaks a truth that challenges what you have already accepted as certain?

The sermon draws a contrast between seeking God primarily when facing problems versus maintaining connection with Him during seasons of blessing -- which posture tends to characterize your own relationship with God, and what might it look like to change that?

The pastor challenges listeners to examine whether their expectations of God, others, and life are rooted in genuine faith or in personal desire and self-interest -- how can a person honestly distinguish between the two in their own heart?

Jesus is described as someone who came not to be served but to serve, and who gave without expecting anything in return -- in what practical ways does that kind of selfless giving challenge or reshape how you approach your relationships with others?

The sermon suggests that when we accepted Christ, many of us assumed life would become easier or more charmed, and that unmet expectations can lead to disappointment with God -- how should a biblically grounded understanding of what following Christ actually costs reshape those initial assumptions?

Paul's struggle in Romans 7 -- doing what he does not want to do and failing to do what he knows is right -- is presented as a relatable tension for believers -- how do you personally navigate that ongoing conflict between your old nature and your new identity in Christ?

The pastor closes by inviting listeners to replace their own expectations with God Himself as their expectation, saying he has never had anyone die for him the way Christ did -- what would it look like in your everyday life to let Christ be your primary expectation rather than a resource you turn to when other expectations fail?