

2026-10-18 Discussion Questions

The sermon draws a contrast between viewing God as a 'Santa Claus' versus recognizing Him as Lord over all areas of life -- in what specific areas of your life have you been treating God more like a wish-granter than a king, and what would it look like to surrender those areas fully to His lordship?

Paul came to a place where he could genuinely embrace hardship, insults, and persecution as opportunities to experience God's grace more deeply -- how does your own response to difficulty reveal the current state of your trust in God, and what might need to change?

The sermon describes David as a man who consistently sought God even in his worst moments of sin, never justifying himself when confronted -- what does your own pattern of response to conviction and correction reveal about the depth of your relationship with God?

Elijah told King Ahab that he had abandoned the Lord's commands and followed false gods, two failures that led to Israel's suffering -- if a spiritual inventory were taken of your life today, which of these two failures would you say poses the greater danger to your own walk with God, and why?

The sermon suggests that the Lord's Prayer phrase 'thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' is meant to be a deeply personal prayer about surrendering our inner lives, not just a recited formula -- what would it practically mean for God's kingdom to fully come into the areas of your life you have kept most private?

The pastor used the image of a divided plate to illustrate how believers often compartmentalize God into a small portion of their lives alongside career, family, and other priorities -- what would your 'plate' honestly look like if you mapped out where God currently fits, and what would need to shift for Him to become the whole plate?

The sermon argues that true biblical faith is not merely a mental agreement with certain doctrines but a conviction that produces visible, ongoing change

in how a person lives -- by that standard, what evidence would the people closest to you point to as proof that your faith is alive and growing?

The pastor expressed concern that the American church has become so focused on making people comfortable and avoiding offense that it has compromised its distinct, holy identity -- where do you see this tension most acutely in your own relationships, and how do you navigate speaking truth with genuine love rather than either silence or harshness?

The sermon revisits the rebuilding of the altar on Mount Carmel as a picture of the need for believers to continually return to a place of surrender rather than treating salvation as a one-time event -- when did you last intentionally rebuild or return to your personal altar of surrender, and what brought you there?

The pastor challenged listeners to bring even their civic decisions, such as voting, under the lordship of Christ by asking God how to honor Him through those choices -- how consistently do you seek God's guidance over decisions that the broader culture treats as purely personal or political, and what would a more kingdom-centered approach to those decisions look like in your life?