2026-11-15 Summary

What does it truly mean to follow Christ rather than simply follow tradition? This message takes us deep into that question, anchoring us in the opening verses of John 1, where Jesus is revealed not merely as a teacher or historical figure but as the living Word of God. From the beginning, the Word was with God and was God, and through him all things were made. When we grasp that reading Scripture is an encounter with Christ himself, everything changes. We stop treating the Bible like a textbook to endure and start approaching it like a conversation with the one who spoke creation into existence. The message challenges us to ask ourselves honestly whether we are more shaped by inherited religious habit than by what the Word actually says. The Pharisees in Mark 7 held their traditions above God's commands, and the warning is that we can do the same thing without ever realizing it. The invitation here is not to become theological scholars but to become people who are genuinely excited about what God is revealing, excited enough to share it with others the way we would share a great discovery with a friend. If the Word is living and active, as Hebrews 4 describes it, then engaging with it should feel like life, not endurance.