

2026-08-02 Discussion Questions

Peter instructs believers in 1 Peter 1:13 to prepare their minds for action and pursue holiness -- in what practical ways does your daily life reflect a posture of readiness and intentional pursuit of holiness, rather than a passive assumption that salvation is simply a one-time transaction?

The pastor describes Christianity as sometimes becoming a 'passive thing' where people assume they have done enough -- how do you personally guard against spiritual complacency, and what does an active, engaged faith look like in your own life?

When Jesus healed the paralytic in Mark 2, he first forgave the man's sins before addressing his physical condition -- what does this sequence reveal about what Jesus considers our deepest and most fundamental need?

The four friends of the paralytic went to extraordinary lengths, even tearing apart a roof, to bring their friend to Jesus -- who in your life needs someone to carry them to Christ, and what obstacles are you willing to overcome to help them get there?

Jesus could perceive the thoughts of the religious leaders who doubted him, and the pastor reminds us that Jesus knows our thoughts as well -- how does the reality that God knows not just your actions but your motives and inner thoughts change the way you approach your relationship with him?

The demon in the synagogue recognized Jesus as the Holy One of God before most people did, yet Jesus silenced it -- what does it mean to you that even the forces of darkness acknowledged Christ's authority, and how should that shape your confidence in him as your anchor?

The pastor draws a distinction between coming to church to 'get' versus coming to 'give,' suggesting the latter leads to a far richer experience -- how might intentionally shifting your posture from receiving to serving transform not only your worship but your relationships within the church community?

The pastor references Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians about not grieving as those who have no hope -- how does the Christian understanding of death and resurrection practically change the way you process loss, and where do you find that hope most difficult to hold onto?

Jesus demonstrated authority over teaching, demonic forces, sickness, and the forgiveness of sins throughout Mark 1 and 2 -- which of these demonstrations of Christ's authority speaks most directly to a struggle or need in your life right now, and why?

The pastor suggests that genuine obedience to God often requires laying something down before picking something new up, and that we sometimes hold onto areas where the enemy still has influence -- what is one thing you sense God may be calling you to release in order to more fully follow him?