

2026-08-16 Discussion Questions

The pastor describes a tendency to live in extremes, either believing God blesses us no matter what we do or assuming nothing will ever go our way -- which extreme do you find yourself drifting toward most often, and how does that affect your daily walk with God?

Jesus slept through a violent storm on the same cushion used by the one who steered the ship, which the pastor suggests symbolizes that Christ is always in control -- in what areas of your life do you struggle most to surrender the steering to him?

The disciples were terrified by the storm, and then terrified again when Jesus calmed it, prompting them to ask who he really was -- have you ever encountered a side of Jesus that surprised or unsettled you, and what did that reveal about the limits of your understanding of him?

The pastor points out that the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of the Most High God before most religious people did -- what does it say about the nature of spiritual awareness that those opposed to God can sometimes perceive spiritual realities more clearly than those who claim to follow him?

Legion begged Jesus not to be sent out of the region, suggesting that demonic spirits operate territorially -- how might an awareness of spiritual forces at work in specific places or communities change the way you pray for your neighborhood, city, or workplace?

The pastor distinguishes between being forgiven and being set free, suggesting that forgiveness is just the beginning of a deeper cleansing work -- what areas of your life have you received forgiveness for but perhaps not yet fully surrendered to the delivering work of the Holy Spirit?

The townspeople who witnessed the healing of the demon-possessed man were afraid and asked Jesus to leave, preferring the familiar discomfort of the man's condition to the disruptive power of his healing -- in what ways might the church today resist the transformative presence of Christ in order to

preserve comfort and routine?

Jesus told the delivered man not to follow him but to go home and tell his family what the Lord had done for him -- why do you think it is often easier to share faith with strangers or in formal ministry settings than it is with the people closest to us?

The pastor describes rebellion as being likened to the sin of divination in 1 Samuel 15, suggesting that unchecked rebellion can open a person to spiritual influences beyond their control -- is there an area of persistent rebellion in your life that you have rationalized rather than surrendered, and what might that cost you spiritually?

Jesus prioritized preaching and teaching above even healing, insisting they move on to new places even when crowds were waiting for more miracles -- how does this challenge the way you personally prioritize spiritual formation and the Word of God compared to acts of service, charity, or other expressions of faith?