

2026-09-02 Discussion Questions

The sermon describes how Ahaziah's mother actively encouraged him to do evil rather than guiding him toward God -- in what ways might we, as parents, mentors, or friends, be passively or actively encouraging those we love toward wrong choices without realizing it?

The pastor draws a distinction between toxic empathy and genuine love, arguing that true love sometimes requires speaking hard truths -- how do you personally navigate the tension between showing compassion and being honest about sin in the lives of people you care about?

Mark's story illustrates how suffering and physical vulnerability can become a powerful platform for witnessing -- have you ever experienced a season of weakness that unexpectedly opened doors for you to share your faith, and what did that teach you about God's purposes in hardship?

The sermon references Paul's declaration in 2 Corinthians 12 that God's grace is sufficient and that strength is made perfect in weakness -- what does it practically look like in your daily life to lean into that truth rather than simply enduring difficulty?

Jehoiada the priest is described as showing strength not through physical force but through conviction and willingness to act on what he believed God required -- where in your own sphere of influence are you being called to show that kind of courageous, covenant-driven strength?

The pastor warns against camouflaged Christianity, where believers adapt to their surroundings rather than standing out as truth-bearers -- in what specific areas of your life do you find it most tempting to blend in, and what would it cost you to stop doing so?

The story of Jesus and the woman at the well is held up as a model of speaking truth in a way that draws people in rather than driving them away -- what qualities of that encounter do you most want to cultivate in your own conversations about faith and sin?

The sermon suggests that staying silent or neutral in the face of evil is itself a form of passive encouragement toward that evil -- do you agree with that assessment, and how does it change the way you think about your responsibilities as a believer in your community?

Jehoiada's plan required coordinating many people and taking a significant personal risk in order to restore rightful leadership in Judah -- what does his example suggest about the role of community, planning, and courage in doing God's work rather than waiting for someone else to act?

The pastor closes by framing communion as a renewal of covenant with God, asking whether we are using our life and breath for the kingdom or for ourselves -- how would your daily choices look different if you approached each day as a deliberate renewal of that covenant?