

2026-09-23 Discussion Questions

The widow gave from her last remaining resources before seeing any evidence that God would provide — in what areas of your life is God calling you to act in faith before you see the outcome, and what is holding you back?

The sermon describes a tendency to forget past hardships once circumstances improve, much like the widow forgot she was already facing death before Elijah arrived — how can we cultivate a more consistent awareness of God's provision so that we do not lose perspective when new difficulties arise?

Elijah cried out to God in desperation without a clear formula or prior instruction, and God still heard him — what does this tell us about the kind of prayer God responds to, and how does it challenge the way you typically approach prayer?

The sermon draws a distinction between whining and crying out to God — what do you think separates the two, and how does that distinction shape the way we bring our pain and frustration before God?

Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians 12, where God's answer to his suffering was not removal of the thorn but the assurance of sufficient grace, challenges the idea that faith always leads to relief — how does this reframe the way you interpret unanswered prayers in your own life?

The sermon suggests that focusing on Christ rather than on pain is what sustained Jesus through the cross and can sustain us through our own hardships — how practically can we train ourselves to shift our focus in the middle of genuine suffering?

The widow immediately blamed Elijah for her son's death and connected it to her past sin, even though Elijah's presence had actually saved her life — in what ways do we similarly misattribute the causes of our difficulties, and what spiritual disciplines might help us think more clearly in moments of crisis?

In John 9, Jesus told his disciples that a man's blindness was not caused by sin but existed so the work of God could be displayed — how does this perspective challenge or reshape the way you interpret suffering or injustice in the lives of people around you?

The sermon emphasizes that God is sovereign and does not need us, yet chose to love and sacrifice for us anyway — how does truly internalizing that truth change the way you relate to God, particularly during seasons when you feel he has let you down?

The sermon calls believers to move from theoretical knowledge of scripture to actually practicing it in daily life — what is one specific biblical truth you know well in your mind but have struggled to put into consistent practice, and what would it look like to take a concrete step toward living it out?