

2026-09-09 Discussion Questions

The pastor describes how we compartmentalize our behavior based on who is around us rather than who is within us -- in what areas of your life do you find yourself living by the standards of your environment rather than the standards of God?

Jeremiah 18 uses the image of a potter reshaping marred clay to illustrate God's sovereignty over nations and individuals -- how does it change your perspective on difficult seasons of life to see yourself as clay still being shaped rather than a finished product?

The pastor observes that good and godly are not the same thing, and that being surrounded by good people can cause us to settle for goodness rather than godliness -- where in your life might you be confusing cultural goodness with genuine faithfulness to God?

Ahab is described as a man who had godly roots and a position of influence, yet moved progressively deeper into evil partly through the influence of those closest to him -- how seriously do you consider the spiritual direction of your closest relationships, and are they pulling you toward God or away from him?

The sermon notes that Ahab likely did not see himself as doing evil, yet Scripture records that he did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any king before him -- what practices or habits in your own life might look acceptable by human standards but warrant honest examination before God?

Jeremiah 13 describes people who are so accustomed to evil that doing good becomes unnatural to them -- at what point does repeated compromise with sin begin to reshape what feels normal to us, and how do we guard against that drift?

Elijah trusted God through increasingly difficult and humbling circumstances, from being fed by ravens to relying on a poor widow -- what does his example reveal about the relationship between obedience and provision, and where do you struggle to trust God's methods?

The pastor warns against letting frustration with suffering cause us to lose reverence for God, noting that looking back often reveals God was at work in our hardest moments -- how do you currently practice holding onto trust in God when circumstances feel like they are moving from bad to worse?

The sermon draws a parallel between the ancient pattern of everyone doing what was right in their own eyes and modern tendencies to treat truth as personal and subjective -- how does a believer faithfully hold to God's standard of right and wrong in a culture that increasingly rejects the idea of absolute truth?

The pastor closes by connecting the Lord's Supper to Jesus saying not my will but yours be done, framing surrender as the ultimate response to the tension between good and evil -- what would it look like practically for you to move from saying you trust God to actually surrendering your will to him in a specific area of your life?