

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Oct 27, 2019

I've Got Questions: Do You Still Not Understand?

Karen Sherlock (8, 10:30 Traditional), Pastor Conway (9:15, 10:30 Selah)

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on I've Got Questions (and So Does God): Is the Lord Among Us or Not?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: What is it about Jesus that is still something of a mystery to you?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Mark 8:11-22. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. ¹² He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it."

¹³ Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."

¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied. ²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." ²¹ He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Why do you think the pharisees were asking Jesus for yet another sign, a "sign from heaven?" (vs 11)
- How do you think the pharisees felt about Jesus' miracles that took place with gentiles as well as the Jews?
- How was the Pharisees request for a sign intended "to test" Him?

- Why did Jesus turn down their request (vs 12)?
- What do you think Jesus meant by the “yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod?” (vs 15)
- How does the example of the confused disciples and the patience of Jesus in this passage offer hope and encouragement to Christians and those exploring Christian faith today? (vs. 14, 16-17)
- What was Jesus wanting the disciples to understand through reviewing the numbers of loaves and baskets of pieces left over in the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000? (vs 19-21)
- What basic truth do you think Jesus most wanted the disciples and us to understand?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud the parable of the Tenants in Matthew 21:33-46.
- This teaching of Jesus took place in the temple courts, among the chief priests and the elders of the people who were asking Jesus “By what authority are you doing these things?” and “who gave you this authority?” (Matt 21:23). How is this setting important in understanding the parable?
- Who are we to understand is represented by the tenants of the vineyard, the owner, the servants of the owner and the son?
- How did the hearers of Jesus understand what the desires of the owner to be? (vs 41)
- What was the reaction of chief priests and pharisees? (vs 45-46)
- How would you describe “the yeast of the pharisees” to be at work in this situation?
- How did Jesus choose to deal with it?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How have you noticed that corruption or evil intent can spread quickly among people in a community?
- Which do you think is the greater threat- the evil intent of others toward us or the possibility of evil intent growing within us?
- Do you think it is ok today to seek a sign from God of His presence and activity in our lives today?
- As Jesus is our master as well as the disciples, what can we learn from his example, in how we may know God’s will for our lives?
- How can belief in Christ as Messiah and Lord be either a sudden change or a gradual one in someone’s life? Where does it begin?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How can the joy of the Lord also be a contagious thing?
- If you would, please share about one person who most fits the description of one with a contagious joy in the Lord.
- How might we be more transparent this week with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus is Messiah and Lord?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer