

Growth Group Questions

11th Sunday after Pentecost ~ August 4, 2024

Introduction

We often take comfort from knowing God is always with us as we think of times of struggle and tragedy. Why do you think his presence is easier to forget when we think of the ministry we do?

Into the Word – 2 Kings 6:8-17

1. It seems the king of Israel mentioned here would be Joram, son of Ahab. Read 2 Kings 3:1-3. What kind of king was Joram to his people?
2. What does God do for his people in these verses, in spite of the king's idolatry and sin? Why is that not surprising to us who know God as a God of GRACE? (Define grace.)
3. Verses 16-17 are personal favorites of mine. It often looks like God has abandoned us when life gets messy, enemies are loud or strength is weak. What prayer might we offer for ourselves based on Elisha's words here?
4. God delivered the king of Israel by keeping him out of danger. Read verses 18-23 and see how God delivered Elisha by allowing danger to come to him but delivering through it. Why must we remember God delivers us in more ways than one?

Into the Word – 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

5. Paul did not expect to escape his current imprisonment alive. Using verses 6-8, explain his emotional state and expectations.

6. At the end of a day's work, we look forward to relaxation and rest. What is our "work" as Christians and what is our "rest"?
7. Paul shows us an important Christian quality in verse 16. What is it, and why is it a sign of a truly mature faith?
8. Even when Paul's fellow Christians failed to live up to his expectations, God stood with him and delivered him. Think of times (real or hypothetical) when people let you down. Help each other find forgiveness for them.

Into the Word – Mark 6:45-56

9. After feeding the 5000, Jesus was faced with a critical moment in his ministry. The people wanted to make him an earthly king. It seems the disciples might have wanted that too. His first "help" to the disciples here was sending them away from the situation. Can you think of a time when God helped you by taking you away from something...or taking it away from you?
10. Jesus let the disciples struggle for hours against the storm before he came out to save them. Why?
11. The disciples had just seen one of Jesus' greatest miracles but their hearts were still hard (v. 52). Here in fear they think Jesus is a ghost! Instead of criticism for those who don't believe, how should we see those who hear but don't believe?

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, Bless me as I live in your name and seek to serve you in all things. Strengthen me with the knowledge of your unfailing presence. Amen.