

Growth Group Questions

4th Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 2, 2025

Introduction

There are many outwardly “successful” churches that don’t preach the gospel of Jesus clearly or fully. What value is there in studying what they do? What danger is there in studying what they do?

Into the Word – Jeremiah 1:4-10

1. How long had God planned to use Jeremiah as his representative? (Verse 5) Explain what this verse says to us about God’s omniscience and our service to God.
2. How did Jeremiah react when God called him to serve? Can you name one or two others in Scripture who reacted similarly?
3. What promise did the Lord give to Moses? To Jeremiah?
4. Moses brought Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. Jeremiah saw his nation destroyed and exiled. Who was the more successful prophet?

Into the Word – 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

5. What two reasons does Paul give in verses 14-15 for Timothy to trust the gospel truth he has learned? What does that say to those who would be spiritual leaders?
6. What does v. 16 tell us about Scripture’s origin and Scripture’s purpose? What other purpose does John 20:31 give?

7. What does it mean to be prepared in season and out of season? Share a personal example if you can.

8. What kinds of things do people’s “itching ears” (v. 3) want to hear in 21st century America?

Into the Word – Luke 4:38-44

9. Describe what Simon Peter’s mother-in-law does when she is healed. How is this instructive for us?
10. In healing Peter’s mother-in-law Jesus showed his power over the natural world. In v. 41 he shows his power over the supernatural world. Do Christians need to fear the occult and Satanic things? Defend your answer.
11. Jesus was in a good place, and the people wanted him to stay. That sounds like a successful ministry. Why did he leave, and what did he do after he left?
12. Salem has been waiting a long time for a second pastor and that’s okay because God has a plan to bless us in his time. Choosing to accept a call away from a church is an agonizing decision, especially when things are going well between a pastor and his church. What weight do Jesus’ words have here for a pastor deliberating a call? What factors do you think play a part in the call decision? What are most important?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, apart from you I can only fail. In Christ I can only win eternally. Bless me here and always. Amen.