

Growth Group Questions

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, February 4, 2024

Introduction

Our service theme today revolves around one of our greatest spiritual enemies, Satan. It seems that we don't see much demon possession or occult activity in our nation, but missionaries in other places around the world will tell us Satan is alive and active there. Why do you suppose Satan works quietly here but more openly elsewhere?

Into the Word – Isaiah 40:27-31

1. What was a time that led you to complain to God that your path was hidden or that God didn't care about your cause (v. 27)?
2. How does verse 28 counteract our natural tendency to blame God for seeming to leave us alone when we suffer? (Especially the last phrase.)
3. Why are verses 29-31 such a comfort in life? At times of death?

Into the Word – 1 Peter 5:6-11

4. Explain what these words about our enemy Satan tell us about him.
 - “prowls”
 - “looking for”
 - “to devour”
5. Discuss this statement: A Christian must fear Satan, but should not be afraid of Satan.

6. Verse 9 explains a battle that still must be fought today. In what ways do we need to “stand firm” in our country today? In what ways do those in more hostile nations have to stand firm?
7. How does God provide an answer to both kinds of persecution in verse 10?

Into the Word – Mark 1:29-39

8. Some churches claim that ministers must remain single and celibate. We obviously allow ministers in our churches to marry and have families. What is the benefit to the church of a pastor who is unmarried? What is the benefit of a pastor who is married?
9. Why do you suppose Jesus didn't allow the demons to speak about him and declare who he is?
10. Jesus could have remained in Capernaum or Bethsaida and lived as a celebrity. Instead he leaves and goes to a solitary place. Then he travels from town to town. Why?
11. Using this text, explain as if you were talking to an unbeliever what power Jesus has and what purpose Jesus lived for?

Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, you came into the world to be my Savior and my substitute. I thank you for the victory you have given to me over sin, over death, and over Satan himself. Turn me away from worldly wisdom and let me put my trust in you. Bless me in all things for your sake. Amen.