

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 11/23/25

Summary

This sermon explored the radical nature of Christ's response to suffering and injustice during his crucifixion. Pastor Mark examined how Jesus, despite having the power to fight, defend himself, save himself, or vindicate himself, chose instead to trust God and continuously forgive his tormentors. The message challenged believers to follow Christ's example by not conforming to worldly patterns of retaliation and self-defense, but instead entrusting themselves to God who judges rightly and maintaining a posture of forgiveness even in the face of suffering and injustice.

The sermon emphasizes that Jesus' choice not to fight was not weakness but a demonstration of God's kingdom values. While everyone expected Jesus to fight back - his disciples, Pilate, and even his tormentors who mocked him to save himself - Jesus chose the path of forgiveness and trust in God. This becomes the model for Christian living, where believers are called to follow in Christ's steps rather than the world's pattern of fighting, defending, and vindicating oneself.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to learn from one another as we discuss Your Word. May we approach this time with humility and a willingness to be challenged and changed by Your truth. Guide our conversation and help us to see Jesus more clearly through our study. In His name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are particularly thankful for this week, and why?

Key Verses

Luke 23:33-34

Luke 23:39-43

1 Peter 2:20-23

Psalm 46:1-3

Colossians 1:19-20

Questions

Why do you think Pastor Mark kept saying 'Jesus should have fought'? What point was he trying to make?

How does Jesus' response to suffering differ from what the world typically expects or teaches us to do?

What does it mean that Jesus was 'saying' (continuously praying) 'Father, forgive them' rather than just saying it once?

The disciples expected Jesus to fight and establish His kingdom through force. How do you think they felt watching Jesus choose not to defend Himself?

According to 1 Peter 2:20-23, how are we as followers of Christ supposed to respond when we face unfair treatment or suffering?

What does it look like practically to 'entrust ourselves to Him who judges rightly' in our daily lives?

How does Jesus' example of forgiveness on the cross challenge the way you handle conflict or mistreatment?

In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to follow Jesus' example of not fighting back or defending yourself?

Life Application

This week, identify one situation where you feel the urge to fight back, defend yourself, or seek vindication. Instead of responding in the world's way, practice entrusting that situation to God and choosing forgiveness. Consider how you can demonstrate Christ's kingdom values rather than conforming to worldly patterns of retaliation.

Key Takeaways

Jesus chose not to fight, defend himself, save himself, or vindicate himself, even though he had the power to do so.

Instead of retaliating, Jesus continuously forgave his tormentors and entrusted himself to God who judges rightly.

As followers of Christ, we are called to follow his example rather than conforming to the world's patterns of fighting back.

True strength is demonstrated through forgiveness and trust in God, not through self-defense and retaliation.

Christ's sacrifice and forgiveness on the cross is what makes our own forgiveness possible.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible example You set for us on the cross. Help us to have the courage and faith to follow in Your footsteps, choosing forgiveness over retaliation and trust over self-defense. When we face difficult situations this week, remind us to entrust ourselves to You who judges rightly. Give us the strength to live according to Your kingdom values rather than the world's patterns. May we be people of grace and forgiveness, just as You have shown us grace and forgiveness. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.