



Mustard Sermon Discussion Questions - August 8, 2021

Scripture Passages:

James 2:14-17 (NIV84) What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him... In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Hebrews 11:22 (NIV84) By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.

Genesis 37:19-20 (NIV84) “Here comes that dreamer!” They said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

Genesis 39:2 (NIV84) The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Genesis 39:6-7 (NIV84) ...Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!”

Genesis 39:21 (NIV84) ...the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Genesis 41:38-40 (NIV84) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

Genesis 45:4-5 (NIV84) Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!”

And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

Genesis 50:19-21 (NIV84) But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...”

Matthew 26:53 (NIV84) Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Warm Up:

Summer is coming to a close and school has started for many people! Spend a few minutes telling your favorite back-to-school memories. Any funny stories you’ll never forget... even if you wanted to?

Discussion:

1) Throughout this series, Pastor Tom has been talking about “the faith directive—faith always leads to action.”

What are some ways you have seen faith in action lately? What are some ways you might be putting your faith into action?

2) In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom described the tension created by the definition of faith:

We face the tension between what I believe about God and the difficult circumstance I am facing today.

3) How do you see this tension lived out in the culture around us? What difficult circumstances have you faced recently that caused this tension with your faith? Who in your life might be an example of handling this tension very well?

4) Read James 2:14-17.

What stands out most to you? Can you think of a time you experienced faith without being called to action? How have you experienced faith and action going hand-in-hand in your life?

5) In his message, after walking us through the story of Joseph, Pastor Tom asks the question:

If you were Joseph what would you do?

If you were in Joseph’s position after everything he had been through, what might you want to do to your brothers?

6) Read Genesis 45:4-5.

What stands out most to you? How does Joseph’s response contrast your response in question 3? How might Joseph’s response show what he was focused on (what they did or what God’s done)?

7) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

We all know betrayal. We all know what it is like to be mistreated. We all know what it is like to have someone break trust or abuse us in some fashion. How you answer that question (What are you going to do?) is a direct connection to your faith.

How might your answer to how you treat someone be in direct connection to your faith? Have you experienced this in your life?

8) Pastor Tom ended with a clear faith directive:

Choose to forgive.

What other stories in scripture can you think of when forgiveness was chosen? How might that forgiveness be an inward faith called to action? How have you seen this in your own life?

Next Steps:

Are there people or situations in your life you need to forgive? What are a few practical steps forward you could take this week?

Take some time this week to reflect on the “not fair” parts of your life. How can you see the Lord at work even in those moments?

Take some time to pray as a group for God’s help as we work through forgiveness and process the not fair parts of life.