

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **July 27, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The question of duration."
Please read the sermon passage (Matthew 17:14-21) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Matthew 17:14-21)

Sermon Outline:

OUR FAITH IN CHRIST NEEDS TO BE STRONG . . .

1. **For the challenges we will encounter** (vv 14-16).
 - a. After Jesus is identified (Matt 3, baptism; Matt 16, Peter's confession; Matt 17, transfiguration), Satan tries to disrupt God's plan to bring Jesus to the cross.
 - b. Don't let the cross make you think God is out of control. Don't be confused!
2. **For the questions we will face** (vv 17-18).
 - a. How long will Jesus have to endure the faithless and wicked?
 - b. The demonized will not seek Jesus--they will need a friend to bring them.
3. **For the assessments we will experience** (vv 19-21).
 - a. Bankrupt faith trusts procedures and programs. That is a recipe for failure (which divides).
 - b. The disciples needed to learn to trust Jesus (discipleship). That is greater than "accountability."

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: After Jesus is identified, there will be opposition. What opposition have you faced after confessing that you believe Jesus is the one-and-only Messiah?
2. Based on #1, above: What kinds of difficulties have you personally faced in terms of close relatives with physical illnesses or disabilities? What have you learned about asking God for healing (prayer)?
3. Based on #2, above: Those who are demonized will typically not seek Jesus on their own. They have to encounter him (Jesus confronts them) or be brought to Christ by friends. Have you ever ministered to a demonized friend?
4. Based on #3, above: Everyone speaks of "accountability" these days--that is, "self-disclosure" and "trusting yourself fully to people." How is "discipleship" different from "accountability"? (Hint: "discipleship" trusts Jesus fully, and follows him; "accountability" tends to trust people fully.)
5. Based on #3, above: Are you trusting and following Jesus fully, or trusting your participation in groups, procedures and programs? How can we pray for you?