

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 8, 2024 (Pentecost 16)

Isaiah 35:4-7a (read vv 1-10?)

Discussion Starters

1. The idea of vengeance is radically different from a "do not fear" message. How is the message of verse 4 helpful for someone with a "fearful" heart?
2. What is the impact of God's coming salvation? How are the things described similar to (or different from) what you normally associate with God's salvation?
3. When will God's salvation happen?

James 2:1-17

Discussion Starters

1. Describe what is happening in this text. What might that look like in today's church? Who would the rich people be? Who would the poor people be?
2. How do people show favoritism? How did they do in Bible times, and how do Christians do it now?
3. What blessings does God give only to the poor?
4. What does this passage teach us about our actions and reactions to people around us?
5. Let's answer the questions posed by James: (a) What use is faith without works? (b) Can faith alone save you?

Mark 7:24-37

Discussion Starters

1. Do you think Jesus was unduly harsh to this woman? Why or why not? How does she respond to him?
2. Do you think demon possession is something that happens today?
3. What does Jesus mean by describing the woman's child as a "dog?"
4. Why did Jesus choose this method of healing the deaf man?
5. How would you describe the response of the people to the miracle of healing the deaf man?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?