

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Kings

Week of February 9, 2020

Week 6: False Piety (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: 2 Kings 16:1-11

Ahaz wanted to be viewed as the most spiritually committed king in Judah's history. His pursuit of ultimate spiritual devotion was a train wreck. We run the risk of doing likewise. We must learn about "False Piety" from the life of Ahaz and carefully avoid his toxic form of faith.

Kicking it off: Do you have any Valentine's Day traditions that you can tell the group about?

Discussion:

1. Reread *2 Kings 16:10* Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.

Ahaz's new altar was offensive to God, but impressive to people. What are some ways that Christians today demonstrate Ahaz's desire to look spiritual?

2. Reread *Isaiah 29:13* "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Do you think the "people" in this verse realize their own hypocrisy? Why or why not?

3. Reread *1 Corinthians 8:1* "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up."

King Ahaz had knowledge of Scripture and even quoted a verse to excuse himself from obeying Isaiah's prophetic command. How do we prevent our growing knowledge of Scripture from leading to arrogance?

4. Reread *2 Chronicles 28:3* Ahaz burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his children in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations.

The king's attempt to sacrifice heroically turned out to be offensive to God. How can our attempts at sacrificing for God get ugly?

5. How would you advise a young Christian to avoid spiritual hypocrisy?

6. How would you advise a young Christian to avoid spiritual pride?

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the Lord to help us live for an audience of One. Pray for Him to help us break free from the need to impress others.