

CURIOUS?

9/19 & 9/20

[John 1:35-39](#) – When was the last time you were curious about something? What did you do about your curiosity? John the Baptist points Jesus out to those around him. He says that Jesus is the Messiah. Two people left to find Jesus and spent the day with him. Can you imagine that? You just heard about Jesus, and you had the opportunity to hang out with him. What would you do? Would you tell others what you experienced? One of the two was Andrew, Peter's brother. When Andrew finally came home, he told Peter about Jesus. Can you imagine meeting Jesus, then figuring out who you can tell?

How curious are you about Jesus?

What is it that draws you to Jesus?

How can you help others be curious about Jesus?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for September 21 – September 27, 2026

I have a friend who is traveling to Utah for a wedding. The couple wanted their family and friends to be a part of their wedding at a National Park. He is excited about going not just because of the celebration, but also because he has the opportunity to experience this part of the United States. It seems that sharing experiences is becoming popular. In the Gospel of John, Jesus opens the door for two people to come and see what he is doing. The two people see where Jesus is staying and talk the day away. They experienced Jesus without having to commit to following him. They probably heard Jesus's vision for the people of Israel. After they left, they faced a choice: to return the next day or stay with John the Baptist? We understand the struggle because we faced something similar on our faith journey. We met Jesus and spent time with them, trying to figure out if we should follow him or not. We experienced the forgiveness of sin, and we understand our ways need to change. Jesus doesn't force us to change, but patiently waits for us to do so.

~ Pastor Seth

JUST A TASTE

Mon. 9/21

[Psalm 34](#) – David, who would become the greatest king of Israel, is running for his life. His father-in-law, who is the first king of Israel, wants to kill David. So, David is running for his life and hiding in unique places. One of those places is in a foreign country that David fought against. David is caught and fakes a mental illness, which enables him to escape. David writes poetry about his experiences, and Psalm 34 is the result of this experience. David shares God's goodness and protection. He invites those who read this psalm to experience God's goodness as he has. When a person experiences God, their lives will change.

What is your experience of God?

Who do you tell about your experiences of God?

HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW

Tue. 9/22

[Genesis 28:10-22](#) – Sometimes, we are oblivious to what is going on around us. How many times have you been behind a driver who doesn't realize the light has turned green? They just aren't paying attention, or they are on their phone instead of watching the road. Jacob is not paying attention to what is happening around him during our reading today. He is traveling and is tired. He is so tired that he uses a rock as a pillow. As he sleeps, he has a vision of a ladder where angels are going up and down. God promises Jacob the land he is in and that he will have a great many descendants. In verse 16, Jacob wakes up and realizes God was there the whole time, and he didn't know. He may not have known because he was tired, or his relationship with God was nonexistent. When he realized God was there, he set up a place to worship God.

When do you recognize God's presence, during or after an event?

What do you do when you know God was at work?

SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO

Wed. 9/23

[Malachi 3:6-12](#) – It is not often that you hear God telling people to test Him. The prophet Malachi shares God's words to His people. This is after the people have returned from the Babylonian exile. They were sent into exile because they wouldn't follow God's directions. They cheated people out of their money, and the injustices to the marginalized were many. Now that they are back in the land God promised them, you would think they would have changed. They did change in some areas of their lives, but they didn't trust God with their finances. They wouldn't follow His word by tithing. They felt they knew better than God. There are times when we do the same thing. We have better uses for our money than God does. We want things and need things. What will God do with our resources? How do we know He will give us more?

Who knows better, you or God, in handling your finances?

What is God's plan for your financial resources? Do you trust Him to do what He says?

WAKE HIM UP OR LET HIM SLEEP

Thur. 9/24

[Mark 4:35-41](#) – In the book, *The Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens writes, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." When we read Mark 4:35-41, we can see that quote coming to life. It was the best of times because the disciples were with Jesus. They watched Jesus perform miracles and heard him teach the crowds about the Kingdom of God. Now, they were in a boat heading to the other side of the lake, and Jesus was sleeping. Storms do rise out of nowhere on the lake they are crossing. This particular storm had seasoned fishermen nervous. What do they do? I imagine they tried to handle it on their own, but it became necessary for them to wake Jesus. When they did, Jesus was not a happy camper. He was frustrated with them. They were astounded by what Jesus did, but struggled with their lack of faith.

When have you been both happy and sad at something God did?

When have you struggled with your faith? What did you do?

WHAT IS THIS?

Fri. 9/25

[Acts 17:16-34](#) – Some people have a way with words that makes you curious about what they are teaching. Others share, and you are bored out of your mind. Then there is the city of Athens, where the Apostle Paul was. They were curious about every new teaching that came through the area. When Paul showed up, he had a ready-made audience who was curious about Jesus. This was very different than the other places he traveled. As Paul shared the good news of Jesus, some people followed, and some ignored him. They were open to what he said. We live in a time a lot like Athens in Paul's day. People are interested in many spiritual things. They want to hear about spiritual experiences, so they can decide what they want to do spiritually. Are we open to sharing our experiences of Jesus?

What spiritual experiences would you share with someone? Why?

What hinders you from sharing your spiritual experiences?