



## Weekly Sermon Based Discussion Questions

**February 15, 2026**

### **DIGGING DEEPER:**

1. John the Baptist called the most moral and religious people a “*brood of vipers*.” What does that reveal about how God evaluates spiritual condition and how might that differ from the way churches usually evaluate it today?
2. This week’s sermon argued that religion and the gospel cannot coexist because one says “*I contribute*” and the other says “*Jesus paid it all*.” Where do you personally see subtle forms of “I contribute” still operating in your relationship with God?
3. Why do you think the people most offended by Jesus were not the immoral but the religious? What specific aspects of Jesus’ message threatened self-righteous people more than openly sinful people?
4. John described Jesus as the one who would *save and separate*. How does that challenge modern ideas that Jesus only comforts but never confronts?
5. Jesus said tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the kingdom ahead of religious leaders. What heart posture did they have that the religious leaders lacked — and how can a church accidentally reproduce the same blindness today?
6. If self-righteousness really is a greater threat to salvation than sin...Why would pride be more spiritually dangerous than obvious moral failure?
7. In the sermon Pastor Brian said that religion tries to approach God with a record of success, while the gospel approaches Jesus with a confession of failure. As practically as possible describe, how a person know which one they are actually living in?
8. If religion today can “manufacture a Jesus” who never confronts sin, what are some modern examples of ways Jesus is reshaped to fit culture — and how can believers guard themselves from following a false version of Him?