



IDENTITY THEFT: Part 5

By Jim Dunn

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that we will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

Guest speaker Jim Dunn spoke about the identity theft that happens when our lives fall apart. He said that it isn't a matter of *if* but rather *when* that a storm or event will happen in our lives that will cause us to question ourselves, our faith and even God.

Read **Mark 4:35-41**.

The Storm

During the storm, the disciples went to Jesus and He immediately calmed the winds and the waves. It might not always be apparent that Jesus is at work in the midst of our storms and we may wish that we had a remote control that could "unmute" God during those times when we don't know how or when He will calm our storm.

1. What should we do when storms come our way? *Philippians 4:6-7, Exodus 14:14, Proverbs 3:5-6*

Believers vs. Followers

Read **Mark 5:1-18**. After the storm, Jesus and the disciples went across the lake to the region of the Gersenes and encountered a man who was possessed by a legion of demons. The unclean spirit immediately knew who Jesus was. Demons were/are some of the biggest believers of Jesus.

2. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus vs. just a believer? *Matthew 16:24, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:2, Romans 8:9, Matthew 5:16*

From Why? To How?

Storms come into our lives to teach us that God is truly there and loves us. They mature us and prepare us for what may lie ahead. Yet, it is natural to ask God, "Why?" when we face these storms. Jim stated that it is okay to ask God, "Why?" but that we must then start asking Him, "How? How can You (God) use this storm that I am going through to reach others and glorify You and Your Kingdom?"

3. Why do we have trials/storms? *2 Corinthians 1:4, 1 Peter 5:10, Romans 5:3-4, James 1:2-4*
4. How should you respond when those trials/storms come?

The week of his wife's funeral, Jim had a dream. He dreamt that he was standing at a table saw and was trying to cut their unity candle in half. He could cut through the wax but was unable to divide the flame.

What does the Bible say about God's love? *Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 136:26, Jeremiah 29:11*

What's Next?

- If you have been through a storm (or are currently going through one) start praying for God to show you how He will use it for good.
- Write down one change you will start making this week that will demonstrate that you are a follower of Jesus, not just a believer.