

# NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## ENCOUNTER GOD

### SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon centers on the truth that one encounter with Jesus can completely transform a person's life. Through the story of the demon-possessed man in Mark 5, the message emphasizes that God is not trying to take something from us, but wants freedom, healing, and restoration for us—and that our transformation is often connected to the expectations we bring into God's presence. Ultimately, the sermon reminds us that Jesus will go through any storm, any mess, and any obstacle to reach people who are hurting, because one encounter with God changes everything.

### KEY POINTS

- One encounter with God changes everything.
  - Throughout scripture and the story in Mark 5, the sermon shows that encountering Jesus can completely transform a person's identity, freedom, future, and purpose.
- God doesn't just want something from you—He wants something for you.
  - The demonic perspective sees God as controlling or demanding, but the divine reality is that Jesus comes to heal, restore, free, and call people into something better.
- Your transformation is tied to your expectation.
  - What we believe God can do affects what we receive from Him. Low expectations keep people stuck, but faith and hope position us to experience real change in God's presence.
- Jesus will go through anything to reach hurting people.
  - From crossing the stormy sea to entering an unclean region, Jesus intentionally pursued the broken, the isolated, and the hopeless to bring freedom and healing.
- The church should create spaces for people to encounter God.
  - The sermon challenges believers to prioritize worship, church community, and spiritual environments where people can genuinely experience the presence and transforming power of Jesus.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. In what ways do people sometimes believe God only wants something from them instead of something for them? How have you personally wrestled with that perspective?**
- 2. The sermon says, “You become what you encounter.” How have encounters with God changed your life, mindset, or habits in the past?**
- 3. What area of your life do you need to start bringing greater expectation and faith into, believing that God can truly transform it?**
- 4. Jesus crossed storms, chaos, and uncomfortable places to reach one hurting man. What does that teach us about God’s heart for broken people—and how should it shape the way we treat others?**
- 5. The message emphasized creating space to encounter God through church, worship, prayer, and community. What practical changes could you make this week to better position yourself for an encounter with God?**