

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. Study Psa 68:5; Deut 14:28-39; Exo 22:22-24; Mal 3:5; Mark 12:40 and consider the nature of widows. What does God's concern for them reveal about his heart and desires for his people?
 - a. What do you think are the effects of a church who does not prioritize caring for widows? How would this have hurt the early church in Acts? What about your own personal witness for the gospel?
2. Is there a specific group in our local community or within our congregation whose needs are easily overlooked in our distribution of care?
3. Reflect on Emperor Julian's observation for the gospel's popularity in the early church. "It is their benevolence to strangers, their care for the graves of the dead and the pretended holiness of their lives that have done most to increase atheism." (Atheism not in reference to a disbelief in God, but disbelief in the Roman Gods.) How far/close is this statement of the church today?
 - a. What type of mercy ministry do you wish you could see in our community through Cornerstone?
4. See 1 Tim 3:8-13. "Why is the integrity bar so high if Deacons are just passing out food and clothes?!" how would you explain? See James 2:1 and 1 Cor 12:14-15.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

5. Pray: For our Deacons and for God to raise more deacons within our local church.
 - a. For Cornerstone's ministry of deeds (outreach, evangelism, mercy) to persevere in joy.