

WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO BILL COSBY

WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY, PART 1: BILL COSBY

America's dad Bill Cosby took a hard fall when allegations of sexual abuse began to surface. Everyone has different opinions, and many wonder, "Guilty or Innocent?" "Is he the victim, or did he victimize others?"

In the court of law, we are innocent until proven guilty. However, in the court of public opinion, judgments are often concluded long before a judge's gavel drops. The bigger question is, "Could it all have been avoided? And, if so, how?"

The Bible says there is one thing more valuable than all the gold in the world (*by the way, through 2016 that's a value of \$8.2 trillion dollars*). This weekend, we will explore that one thing as it relates to Bill Cosby, the Bible, and us.

BIG IDEA: Your reputation and character are more valuable than gold.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your full name? Is there a story behind your name? (*Were you named after a family member or individual?*)
2. What inherited meaning does your name have? What other names do you go by? Why the name change?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 22:1.* How can a good name be more valuable than riches?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ecclesiastes 7:1.*

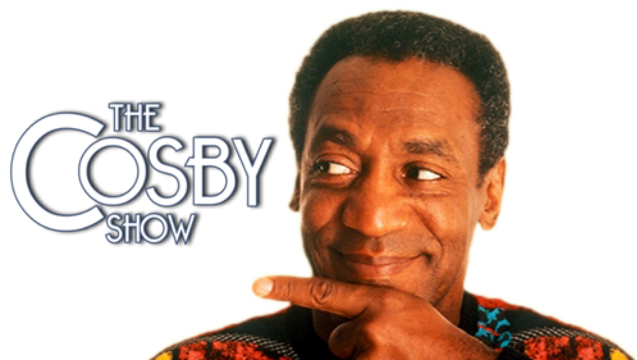
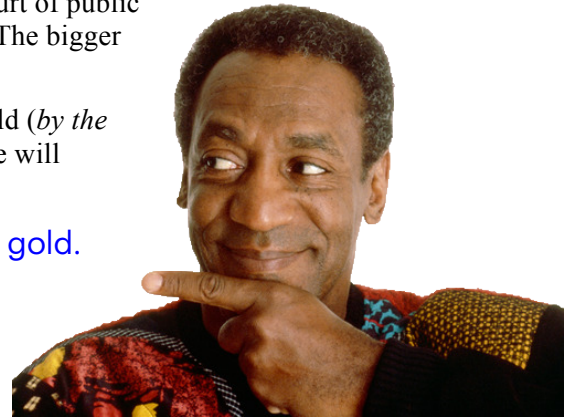
In Solomon's day, people would go months without taking a bath. Because of this, the rich would take perfume and cover up their smell (*much like a middle school boy does by spraying Axe!!*) Perfume was hard to come by. It was expensive. And even if you could afford it? You usually couldn't find it. It was *scarce*.

5. Chris said, "Our reputation is based upon 3 C's: *Character, Chemistry, and Competency.*" In your own words, define what character, chemistry, and competency look like. Which one is the strongest in your life right now— *Character, Chemistry, and Competency?* Which is the weakest?
6. Character is who you are when no one is looking. Talk about character gaps you have seen between someone when they're in front of people and who they are when no one is looking. Is there a gap in your character now?
7. Chemistry is getting along with other people. Do you know some people that just can't seem to get along with other people? They very rarely blame themselves but other people and things. Why do you think they're so difficult?
8. Competency is being able to deliver results. It seems on our world, this last one is the only 'C' that they care about—getting results. What is the danger of skipping over the first two to get to Competency?
9. Chris said, "If your character is not strengthening? Your future is weakening." Do you agree? What does that mean?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Joshua 24:14-15.* What does Joshua ask the people to do? What does he plan on doing himself?
11. Joshua made a choice. There are 2 Keys to Achieve a Good Reputation: **Choices & Consistency.** Which one do you generally struggle with? Making good and wise choices? Or being consistent?
12. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 39:20-23.* Why do you think God allowed Joseph to be accused falsely? What does this say about human perversity? About God's plans for Joseph? For us?

Notice the similarities in Joseph's Story in Genesis 39. God's presence is with Joseph (39:2, 39:20-21). Joseph is trustworthy (39:4, 21). Joseph is found responsible (39:4, 22) and given more responsibility (39:6, 23). Joseph experienced success (39:3, 23).

THINK ABOUT IT

In a spring day in April 1912, the opulent, 900-foot British cruise Titanic set forth on its maiden voyage. Over four city blocks long and equipped with a double-bottomed hull, the Titanic was divided into sixteen watertight compartments, with as many of four of these could be completely flooded without affecting the ship's buoyancy. Many



experts of that time considered the Titanic unsinkable. Experts of its day hailed this “ship of dreams” as “practically unsinkable.” One seaman even went so far as to say: “God Himself couldn’t sink this ship!” That’s why the morning after the sinking most people refused to believe the “unsinkable” had sunk. Even the *Wall Street Journal* printed an optimistic report:

“The gravity of the damage to the *Titanic* is apparent, but the important point is that she did not sink. Man’s brain has within it the spirit of the divine, and he overcomes natural obstacles by thought, which is incomparably the greatest force in the universe.”

But the Titanic did sink. On the fateful night of April 14th, 1912, shortly before midnight, the great liner was steaming through the foggy North Atlantic when it collided with an enormous iceberg, ripping into the ship’s right side, rupturing five of its watertight compartments. The Titanic sank into the icy depths of the North Atlantic in the early hours of April 15, 1912. It took 2 hours and 40 minutes. Out of 2,223 passengers, only 706 people survived. No one knew exactly where it sank. For 73 years, the wreckage of the Titanic lay beneath two and a half miles of water—out of reach of cameras, submersibles, and the human eye.



That is, until Dr. Robert Ballard discovered the Titanic wreckage in September of 1985. Before the discovery of the wreckage, scientists thought that one large gash from that fateful iceberg proved to be the Titanic’s undoing. But an international team of divers and scientists recently used sound waves to probe the wreckage, buried in the mud under two-and-a-half miles of water. Their discovery? Instead of the huge gash, they found six relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds. The damage was surprisingly small.

Small damage, invisible to most, can sink a great ship.

Small damage, invisible to most, can also sink a great reputation, character, and integrity.

What is character? **Character is who you are when no one’s looking.** General H. Norman Schwarzkopf said that 99 percent of leadership failures in the 20th Century were failures of character.

MOVING FORWARD

What have you done (or could do) to make—or unmake—a ‘good name’ for yourself, your family, or your profession?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.
Proverbs 22:1

