

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message

April 19, 2026. ***“What do you want? questions that question us”.*** ***“What do you want me to do for you?”***

I Intro.

We're moving through Spring and our series on questions. We're glad you've chosen to use this resource. You'll want to keep up with everything that's happening at NCC. Stay connected through our social media to keep up with everything that's going on. Welcome to our companion devotional to Sunday's message. It's just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don't want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are fully committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family. If there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

II Recap.

We began this series on Good Friday asking the questions: ***“What do you want?”*** ***“Why are you here?”*** To get us to examine our motives and intentions when we come to church. So, for the month of April we're hitting just a few of the questions Jesus asked, that force us to ask ourselves some important questions. And it begins with that first question. When you come to church. When you seek God: ***“What do you want?”*** On Easter we asked: ***“Who are you looking for?”*** When you're looking for something, someone bigger than yourself. ***What are you needing, hoping, to find?*** Last week we asked the question that challenges our tendency to just settle for the life we find ourselves in. ***“Do you want to get well?”*** Today is the question that comes after a recognition that we want God to help us. ***“What do you want me to do for you?”***

III Sunday.

Why good questions are important. I want to tell you why I love questions. And why I'm always looking for better ones to ask. Good questions are an essential part in a life of transformation. Jesus constantly asked questions, because he wanted people to think about what they thought about. And how they lived their lives. Good questions will help bring to the surface things we've let stay hidden. Good questions slow us down, and force us to take responsibility for our life. It's why kids always ask ***“Why?”***. They want understanding. They want to know what's true. Something they can hold onto. And it's why ***“Why?”*** drives adults crazy. Because a kid's ***“Why?”*** outs us for not knowing the answer to the question. We can only respond— ***“because”***...because... we haven't thought it through. Good questions spark within us our natural sense of curiosity. Good questions give us tools, not just content, for understanding and growth. Good questions give us agency and ownership of our future. There are questions that come along in our daily life that just stop us in our tracks. These questions won't allow us to ignore them, or go around them.

Some examples of good questions.

What would you say was one of the most influential events in your past that is responsible for you being who you are today?

Tell me about one of your greatest hurts?

What was a life changing experience you will never forget?

These questions highlight the difference between surface and deep. Between the general and the particular. (About you specifically) From just gathering information to deeper understanding. When you ask these kinds of questions, you often unlock a door that will reveal more about that person than you knew. *“THAT’S why that person does that.”* And these kinds of questions will grow relationships.

The work of growing spiritually is growing the skill, and the desire, to continually dive deeper, and open yourself up more. To root out and surrender unhealthy things we hold onto. But also knock down walls and unlock doors we shove stuff behind that keep us from seeing or ever having to deal with uncomfortable things. These questions force us to intentionally prioritize our lives. *“I live thinking these certain things are important. But that question makes me stop, rethink my priorities, long held beliefs and values, and see if I’m living the way that I think I am.”* That’s what a good question can do. Today’s question is to push you to dig deeper and open up. ***“What do you want me to do for you?”*** And let me add... *“really?”*

Like our other questions, this one is born out of our recognition, acknowledgment, and acceptance of our own insufficiency. To begin responding to a question like today’s, we have to be able to admit; *“I just can’t”*. Many times things are really bad when we get to this point. We rarely do this as quickly as we need to. But even if we wait longer than we should have, it’s never too late. There is always hope. So, here is the passage where we’ll find the specific question for today.

Luke 18:35-41 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

“Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord,” he said, “I want to see!”

So, what does this specific question demand from us?

Knowing what you want begins with growing your sensitivity to the person of Jesus. Two things that had to happen before this man could answer Jesus’ question.

1. This man had developed the ability to sense when things were different. He had been in crowds before. But he sensed something different about this time. He probably couldn’t describe in detail what this difference actually is. But he had grown something inside of him that let him know he was in a unique situation. For me, I remember one night late March 2021, sitting on the front porch of my house watching a storm just north of me moving east. There was just something different about this storm than other ones I had experienced. It ended up being the EF4 tornado that ravaged through Newnan. Because I was familiar with how past storms move, I could tell there was something different about this one.

To be able to know what we want Jesus to do, we need to grow that same sensitivity and awareness of when things are different in our spiritual lives. A sensitivity, 'spidey sense', that demands further action. When you have kids, and it gets a little too quiet you know something isn't quite right. To grow this sensitivity spiritually is a big deal. In worship sometimes you just sing songs. Sometimes (often when something is happening in your life) it's more than just singing songs. You can tell something different is happening. I can name a couple of times in the past year that happened to me in worship. To be able to answer the question: ***"What do you want me to do for you?"***, you have to grow the ability to sense a movement of the Spirit. And then you fully step into those moments. This man knew something different was happening. And he wasn't going to let that moment or Jesus pass him by.

2. An even bigger, more important, truth is this man had grown his ability to know who Jesus was, and what Jesus offered him. We have to ask: **How did this man who was blind know who Jesus was?** In spite of his limitations, this man had grown an understanding of who Jesus was, and what he could do. Because he mentioned; *"Son of David, have mercy on me"*, and a specific healing. This man had grown an understanding of who Jesus was. Again, going back to the example of prayer, we have to grow and move from generic vague prayers to specific ones. It's not just; *"God bless me, and my family"*. But; *"Jesus in this specific situation it's 'these things' that I need from you"*. Real spiritual maturity is growing from generalities to specifics. Growing in your knowledge of, and closeness to, the person of Jesus, you will become more confident and assured of what Jesus can bring you. And you won't be afraid to ask him for it.

You may have to push through things that want to stand in your way of moving towards Jesus. This could be external. *"The crowd"*. Family, friends, your lifestyle, choices you've made you're stuck in. Or this could be internal. Fear, insecurity, shame, embarrassment, past history of attempts to find healing and wholeness. We saw this in last week's story of the man at the pool, there has to be a boldness in our voicing what we need from God. But it has to be a boldness that keeps us praying and asking (parable of the persistent widow) when it would be easier to give up. This man would not allow any obstacle, external or internal, keep him from voicing what he wanted Jesus to do.

Voicing what you need then requires a full-bodied movement towards Jesus. Once this man was told it was Jesus, there was no holding him back from moving towards him. This is an essential truth in our relationship with Jesus. With every fiber of our being, we move towards Jesus. The recovery community calls this; the *'gift of desperation'*. We don't know what else this man had tried. But we see a different spirit than the man who was crippled at the Pool of Bethesda. That man had grown comfortable, and had accepted his condition. It would be his life. This man would not settle for 'good enough'. He wanted more. And that desire for more would not allow him to be silenced.

The man asked for:

1. Mercy. Recognize who we are, and who Jesus is. This is not for the purpose of shaming. This is to grow within us the humility to ask for help. *"Jesus, you have considerably 'more' than I do. And in my situation I'm asking you to share your 'more' with my 'less' as an act of love."* This man recognized his situation, and admitted his need only Jesus could meet.

2. Specific need. FIRST, Jesus knew what this man needed. Jesus knows what we need. But this man needed to hear himself say it out loud. Prayer isn't telling God what you need. Prayer is connecting to God so he can move through you when you hear yourself say what you need. We do

this with kids to help them learn to use words to express their needs. This is an essential truth about spiritual growth. It's living in such continual closeness with the Holy Spirit, that your inner world (and all the mess in there) is constantly being revealed to you. This is the difference between good coaching and elite coaching. Good coaching teaches the larger more generally known truths. Elite coaching pointing out 'tells', more specific things, you didn't know you had.

In this story, the man had a very obvious need. In a relationship with Jesus, we surrender because we are not able on our own to meet our own needs. And through a bold, fearless, honest pursuit of Jesus, we can discover what our needs are. This is the work of clarity, and digging deeper. We sometimes slide out of the particularities (specifics) of our faith. We tend to do the big catch-all 'wave of our hand' ask. Which doesn't push us to determine the specific things inside of us that God wants to heal and redeem. This requires real, and honest vulnerability to name our deepest need(s). Asking those types of questions we talked about earlier.

So, what are those deep-seated, broken places that can only be fixed by the power of God? Name them!! Hurt, rejection, abandonment, bitterness, anger, revenge, selfishness, greed, spiritual blindness, etc.

Do you tend to only mention surface things, because you're afraid to expose the more messy places within us?

BE BOLD! Don't be afraid to approach God and ask him for anything. Even things that scare you!

IV Challenge.

The blind man nails it. He knows his need, and isn't afraid to say it out loud.

What are you willingly to specifically ask for?

I want you to think about this question this upcoming week.

"Jesus, what I want you to do for me is _____"

Then we can have the assurance of knowing God is asking us this question.

"What do you want me to do for you?"