


## The Compassionate Questions of Jesus

Today, you are invited to consider some of the compassionate questions of Jesus. Even though I am a pastor and love answers, in this season of my life I spend much of my time as a spiritual director and a teacher of spiritual directors. And I have discovered something: ***I love the questions even more than the answers.*** Jesus asked questions that opened hearts, revealed longings, and invited people into transformation. Perhaps one of these questions is for you today.

What question feels like the one you need? Which question do you most resist. Both of those questions are worthy of your time and attention. with the one who drinks at the table with you.

### Today's message surrounded the questions —

**"Can you drink the cup I drink?"**
Mark 10:38

**"What do you want me to do for you?"**
Mark 10:51

### Questions that invite us to examine our lives —

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| **"Can you drink the cup I drink?"** Mark 10:38 | *What does it mean to receive the whole of your life?* |
| **"What do you want me to do for you?"** Mark 10:51 | *Can you name your deepest longing?* |
| **"What are you looking for?"** John 1:38 | *What is your soul seeking?* |
| **"Do you want to get well?"** John 5:6 | *What might healing invite from you?* |
| **"Why are you afraid?"** Matthew 8:26 | *What is fear asking you to notice?* |
| **"Who do you say that I am?"** Mark 8:29 | *Who is Jesus to you today?* |
| **"Why are you crying?"** John 20:15 | *Can you bring your grief into the light?* |
| **"Do you love me?"** John 21:15–17 | *How might love shape your calling?* |

### Questions that invite us into compassion for others —

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| **"Which of these three was a neighbor?"** Luke 10:36 | *Whose neighbor are you becoming?* |
| **"Who touched my clothes?"** Mark 5:30 | *Who is longing to be seen?* |
| **"Has no one condemned you?"** | *Can you receive mercy and begin again?* |

*Scripture questions are shortened or lightly paraphrased for reflection. Invitations are interpretive, not always direct quotations.*



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| John 8:10<br>**"Do you understand what I have done for you?"**<br>John 13:12 | *What does humble love look like in practice?* |
| **"Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I say?"**<br>Luke 6:46 | *Does your life reflect the love you profess?* |

## Questions that invite us into trust and transformation —

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| **"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"**<br>Matthew 6:27 | *What might you release?* |
| **"Where is your faith?"**<br>Luke 8:25 | *Where is your trust anchored?* |
| **"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"**<br>Matthew 9:28 | *Where might hope be stirring?* |
| **"*Can this cup pass*?"**<br>Matthew 26:39 | *Where might you want to pass on the cup?*<br>*Are you able to welcome what is?* |
| **"Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?"**<br>Matthew 26:40 | *Can you stay present with suffering?* |

## A question to carry and an invitation into the week —

In Mark 10, Jesus asks James and John and then Bartimaeus essentially the same question: **"What do you want me to do for you?"** One asks for **position** and **connection;** the other asks **for sight.** Both are looking to be seen and be with Jesus. What would you ask Jesus today?

***The question(s) I want to sit with:*** _____

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## From Receiving to Offering Compassion

***The question(s) I want to offer to a friend***:
When I threw the cup, Scott simply asked, ***"How did that feel to throw the cup?"***

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No judgment. No preaching. No unsolicited advice. Just a compassionate question that helped me drop the plow and notice what was beneath my anger. His question made room for me to move from anger to grief, from grief to prayer, and from prayer to listening for the words of Jesus to me.

**This week, practice offering a compassionate question to someone else**—not to fix them, but to listen, understand, and make room for their soul.

As you reflect on the questions of Jesus above, is there one you might offer a friend? Or perhaps one that inspires a question of your own?

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***Consider making time with a trusted spiritual friend or spiritual director to explore what you are noticing, what is stirring within you, and where God may be inviting you to deeper awareness and compassion*.**



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