

Jesus Is The Question

8-16-23

Why Did Jesus Ask So Many Questions?

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. **Welcome those online.**

B. **Slide2 At Risk Meeting:** Join us Sunday, 3-5pm in the Agape Room. Kelly will be sharing some *very practical ways* to get involved in the fight against HT.

C. **Slide3 Community Groups:** are starting soon, so sign up today. Community Groups are co-ed groups grow closer to God and each other. **Check out the** time/day/eve options **and sign up online** for one that fits your schedule.

D. **Slide4 R&R Study:** Fall Reasons to Rejoice Bible Study. The book is \$5.00 that you pay online when you register **and** you'll receive the first night. Either Mon nite 7pm **or** Tues morn at 9am (childcare provided Tues). Online registration begins today.

E. **Slide5 MOM's Group:** Online registration for MOM's begins tomorrow. 1st mtg will be on Thurs, Sept14th. We meet twice a month on Thursdays throughout the school year.

F. **Slide6 Calvary Kids AND R&R and MOM's Childcare** [moms raising children ages 0-5 yrs]: We have some exciting **Volunteer Opportunities** for you. As summer comes to a close, we are looking for **teachers, assistants and small group leaders** to serve on Sundays & Wednesdays thru the next school year (**or** Tues **or** every other Thurs). We will provide you with all of the training and supplies you will need to experience the joy of serving in Children's ministry.

G. **Slide7 Prayer:** Let's ask God to bless our next series, *Why Did Jesus Ask So Many Questions?*

II. Slide8a Intro: Why Did Jesus Ask So Many Questions?

A. A Bumper Sticker reads, **Jesus is the Answer.** *But Might He also be the Question?*

1. **Slide8b** Remember Walter Martin? *The Bible Answer Man* on the radio. We esteem answers (which are important) **but** can we esteem questions? Would you listen to *The Bible Question Man?* (we should)

2. We love answers in our culture. Answers mean that we have *knowledge*.
- a) Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 that *knowledge puffs us up*. *It makes us feel better about ourselves, superior to those around us. And we eat that up. We love having knowledge and showing others what we know.*
- (1) Here's the reality. *Knowledge by itself* just causes us to think we are better than others, *it puffs us up*. *Knowledge puffs up, love builds up*.
3. Slide8c Will you ponder with me the implications of the *all-knowing-Savior* who approaches the world, *and us*, with questions?
4. You realize, Jesus doesn't just offer *spiritual tips*, *or* give us a *bullet point* list of 10 ways to be *closer to God*. *Nor* does he provide *easy* answers. *Instead*, he has *hard* questions.
- B. Slide8d Book: *Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*. *Martin Copenhaver*
1. By contrast Jesus is asked **183** questions.
2. Back to the **3** He answers (some say **8**) that still means, *Jesus is 40 x's more likely to ask you a question than He is to give you a direct answer*.

III. Slide9a WHY QUESTIONS IN GENERAL?

- A. Linguists tell us that questions have *many different functions* in conversation:¹
1. Questions **elicit information**.
- a) *Why do you not understand what I am saying? Where is your faith?*
Why could you not watch with me one hour?
2. Slide9b Questions **directly challenge** the listener.
- a) *Why do you not understand what I am saying? Where is your faith?*
Why could you not watch with me one hour?
3. Slide9c Questions inspire people to **discover** something new, to unearth new knowledge.

¹ Copenhaver, Martin B.. *Jesus Is the Question* . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

- a) The goal is not to communicate knowledge, **but** to elicit new understanding in the listener. **Information** is not the goal. **Transformation** is.
4. **Slide9d Questions also persuade**. this is what's happening when courtroom attorneys win their cases.
- a) They ask questions of a witness, **but** those questions make an argument, **and** ultimately *the chain of questions* persuades the jury.
5. **Slide9e Questions stimulate thought**. That's why good teachers ask questions of their students **rather than** just *lecture at them*.
- a) *What are you looking for? Who do you say that I am?*
- b) **Answers** can be offered as a **conclusion**, **Questions** are an invitation to further **reflection**. For the most part, *answers close and questions open*.
- (1) Notice the word *question* contains the word *quest*. He sending us on a **journey** in search of something **valuable**.
6. **Slide9f Questions forge intimacy**. Imagine here **not** an *interrogation*, **but** the questions you exchange **over coffee** with a new friend.
- a) So questions build closeness.

IV. **Slide10a WHY DOES JESUS PREFER QUESTIONS OVER DIRECT ANSWERS?**

- A. By asking, so many questions, maybe Jesus was reflecting *a Jewish tradition*, particularly a *rabbinic* tradition.
1. There's an old Jewish joke, *Why does a Jew always answer a question with a question? Answer: Why shouldn't a Jew always answer a question with a question?*
 2. *How many have attended a Seder Feast?* This whole ritual of Jewish tradition, is structured around *5 questions* (dating back to Ex.12:26).
- B. **Slide10b The 1st words that Jesus speak** are regarding question. He's a preteen, and Mary & Joseph, think that they lost Him in Jerusalem. They finally find Him, *After*

three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Lk 2:46

1. When Mary asks, *why did you treat us like this*, adding, *we've been searching for you*. What was Jesus's response? 2 questions: *Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my fathers house?*
- C. Slide10c **At the other end** of His life, while hanging on the cross, He asks, *My God My God why have You forsaken Me?*
- D. Slide10d **Even after His resurrection** He's still asking questions: *What are you talking about as you walk along?* (2 emmaus disciples) *Do you have anything here to eat? Do you love me?*
- E. Slide10e **Some Questions Seem Silly** upon 1st Reading.
1. Peter walking on water starts to sink, Jesus asks, *O you of little faith, why did you doubt?* (I'll tell you why, *he was sinking!!!*)
 2. Slide10f Another time, a blind man calls out to Jesus, as he's passing by on the road to Jericho, Jesus stops and asks him, *What do you want me to do for you?* (Uh, I'm blind)
 - a) How will you answer that question this evening?
 - (1) *What do you want Me to do for you?*
 - b) Is there anything **deeper** than what you just thought of?
 - (1) **What we need most from Jesus is what he has **already done** for **us**.**
 - c) I think Jesus is asking them to look deeper? [the questions above weren't silly]
 - d) I think Jesus is also **showing respect** for the blind man. He's not presuming to know what he wants (of course He knows), **but** He's asking him.
 - (1) **Never assume that you know what another person needs or wants.**
- V. Slid11a **HOW WILL THIS CHANGE MY ENGAGEMENT WITH GOD?**
- A. How does this translate into our lives?

B. **Ask them:** How does this change, How you view **God**? Your relationship with Him?

1. **Slid11b** Heb.11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

C. **Slid11c** **Ask them:** How might you seek Him more in your prayers?

1. **Slid11d** Mt.7:7-11 ***Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who **asks** receives, and the one who **seeks** finds, and to the one who **knocks** it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who **ask him!***

D. **Slid11e** **Ask them:** How does this change How you view **Prayer** in general?

1. Will you start **asking** more questions?

VI. **Slide12a** **HOW WILL THIS CHANGE MY ENGAGEMENT WITH PEOPLE?**

A. Think of the people who made the biggest impact in your life. **Is it the person who lectured you on all things true? Or the person who listened and helped you reflect on life?**

1. For me, the people who've made the biggest impact are the ones who asked the most questions. **Slide12b** **Lectures** have given me information, **but** rarely has that lead to *meaningful change in my life*.
2. **Slide12c** We communicate **love** by asking questions. Asking questions convey we care what they think, they feel, they know.
3. **Slide12d** We cannot **think well** unless we are **asked questions**.

B. **Last Thoughts:**

1. **God the Father works the same way as Jesus.** Remember in the last 5 chapters of Job⁽³⁸⁻⁴²⁾ **Ask: God the Father asks Job how many questions?** 70 questions!
 - a) Listen for God asking you questions in your prayer time, **and** in reading of His Word.
2. **Ask God questions during your prayer time.** Then sit and listen.