

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

**"3 COMPLICATED QUESTIONS. 3 SIMPLE ANSWERS" | MARK 12:13-34 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL**

## **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

**Would you rather give answers or ask questions? Why?**

### ***"Allegiance" Mark 12: 13-17***

Jesus is asked if Jews should pay their taxes to Caesar or not, in an attempt to trap Him. **What does it mean to give to the government what is due? What does it mean to give to God what is God's if all people are made in His image?**

### ***"Hope" Mark 12: 18-27***

Jesus is challenged over the resurrection with a scenario of a woman being married 7 times. Jesus definitively answers there is life after death. **What is hard about knowing our relationships will be different in heaven? What is hopeful about that change?**

### ***"Love" Mark 12: 28-34***

Jesus is asked what is the greatest commandment and He replies to love God with everything and to love your neighbor as yourself. **How can people love as God commands? How can you be more open to sharing God's love around you?**

## **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Jesus shows His Kingdom is great and He rules with wisdom and love and offers hope to all who are willing to follow Him. **Where has your allegiance been lately? Do you trust and love God in a way that leads you to hope for heaven? Have you been trying to love like God on your own strength instead of through His Spirit? Ask Jesus your own questions and make time to be still and listen to Him this week so you can have His wisdom and love.**

**Jesus Journal: Write down at least one thing about Jesus that impressed you in the passage and message.**

**Mark 12:13-34**

**7-20-25**

### **3 Complicated Questions. 3 Simple Answers.**

#### **I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. **Slide2 Baby dedication 2nd:** (invite by name only) Amani Belinda Hernandez (Parents: Alfonso & Sarai)
- B. A baby dedication is recognizing God's **Gift and Ownership**.
  1. Idea: Children are **not possessions to control**, but **gifts to steward**.
  2. **Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him**. Ps.127:3
  3. Dedication is a public acknowledgment that **this child** belongs 1st to **God and the parents** are entrusted with **shaping a life made in His image**.
  4. **Prayer:** Today we're recognizing that **God already loves this child** more than **Alfonso/Sarai** ever could, & they're placing **Amani** rightly into His care.
- C. **Welcome to those watching online: 2nd** Service only.
- D. **Giving Update:** we are off to a good start, we have 30 families so far. **Many want to be apart of the 600!** Some started **the extra \$128 for 4 months** some are starting in **August** (to make up for this years **budget deficit**). **And many were challenged to look at, pray through, & make an adjustment to** their weekly giving. (Final Phase: App/web)
- E. **Prayer:** TY for Jason & the team back from Texas, working with our Roh friends.

#### **II. Slide3 Intro: 3 Complicated Questions. 3 Simple Answers.** [still on Tues]

- A. Dr. Suess said, ***Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.*** [that's what we have here - ***3 complicated questions. 3 simple answers***]
- B. **GPS Illustration:** You can punch in a destination with **a 100 possible turns**, traffic variables, and timing issues - **but** your GPS still calmly says, ***Turn left in 500 feet.*** It takes a complicated path **and** gives you **one clear next step**.
  1. Connection: **That's Jesus.** Our ***3-fold path*** this morning is full of **theology, law, resurrection debates, and political tension**. **But** Jesus always gives ***clear, Spirit-filled direction*** rooted in ***love, truth, and grace***.
- C. **Outline:** ***Allegiance - Hope - Love.***

### III. Slide4a **ALLEGIANCE (13-17)** Read *a political question: Phar/ Hrd*

A. What if we (USA) got so indebted to the Chinese Gov that they issued **an annual Tribute Tax** against us? We'd feel it digging in, it's not fair, we've lost our independence. \*not a conspiracy theory, just an *application* :)

B. **Pharisees** – were **a strict separatist Jews**, totally opposed to Roman rule.

C. **Herodians** –were **a Jewish political party** who sympathized with w/Rome.

1. **Pharisees** (extreme right wingers). **Herodians** (extreme left wingers).

D. **Jesus** was able to move the discussion from **politics** to **principle**.

#### E. **RENDER TO CAESAR**

1. If **this coin** bears his picture and name, it must belong to him. **And** whatever belongs to him you should give back to him.

2. **Jesus** doesn't play *political games*, **He** **redirects hearts** to God's ultimate authority.

#### F. **RENDER TO GOD**

1. He reminds them of a greater responsibility, **our 1st Allegiance is to God**.

a) Slide4b Erasmus, *"Give back to God that which has the image and superscription of God ... the soul."*

2. **We bear His image**

3. **Believers: we all have been minted in heaven**. All humans are made in **the image of God**. **We are God's coin**.

4. 2 Cor.1:22 (He) **set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts**. [but do we bear His signature on our hearts?]

a) Ancient wax seal, owner would take His ring and press it into the hot wax.

b) **So the HS** does with **believers**. He **warms us, makes us impressionable, and then presses His image—His character into us**.

5. Slide4c **Now** not only an **"H"** (**H**uman) is impressed upon us; **but then** at salvation the HS has been further pressed upon our souls, a 2nd **"H"** (**H**is).

G. Just as **denarii** belong to Caesar **because** they bear his image, **the whole of one's life belongs to God** **because** people bear the image of God.

H. Big Idea: Jesus doesn't take sides, He takes over. Our *identity & allegiance* belong to Him.

#### IV. Slide5a **HOPE** (18-27) **Read** a political question: Phar/ Hrd

A. **Sadducees** - also liberal. They are *trying to show* how ridiculous belief in **the resurrection** is. As they didn't believe in the existence of *the soul, life after death, final judgment, angels, demons, or resurrection*.

1. They site **the Levirate marriage custom** from Deut.25:5. Which basically says, **if a man dies childless**, his brother was to marry the widow. **Then** the 1st child would legally become the heir of *the deceased father*. **Thus** the family line would not die out.

B. The **importance** of the **resurrection** is not just **theological** - it's **personal**, *Jesus is the resurrection and the life*.

1. Jesus speaks of **resurrection** because **He is the key to it**, **and** in just days, **He'll prove it**.

C. They only believed in **the Torah** (books of Moses) and they failed to notice **Moses** did teach on **life after death**. (vs.26; Ex.3:6)

1. **What is Jesus doing here?** He is pulling this passage from a book that **they accepted**. *Since He can't say Ex.3:6* He says, **in the passage about the bush** (look around the area where around **the bush** story).

D. **What is the afterlife like? Are we married in heaven?** - **Our relationships will be transformed in the next life**. They will be **greater**. More **wonderful**, **but different**.

1. I believe we will be able to **continue** our relationships from here, **yet** they will be **transformed**. **But** it's not just a 2.0 upgrade.

2. **We know we do not become angels when we die**. Yet we will be **like** the Angels (in which ways?). **We will not die**, we will not **procreate**, we are **perfect harmony** with God, we have no feelings of **discontentment**.

- E. Also the 4-fold reason for marriage will be fulfilled: 1. Companionship. 2. Procreation. 3. Sexual fulfillment. 4. Illustration of the gospel (Christ & the church).
1. The need for **companionship** is fully met with a multitude of believers. The need for **reproduction** is no more. The desire for **satisfaction** is fully met forever. And **Christ marriage to the church** is fulfilled.
  2. I **do** think you'll know your spouse. Actually, we will be able to finally love our spouse, Perfectly! [I'll be more capable of loving Kelly - she'll be more capable of loving me—because we won't have sin. She has a lot of of it so it'll be way better for me] :)
  3. Right now *we see through a glass darkly*. But no one will be *disappointed*.
  4. I guarantee if you're single and you're up in heaven, you won't be saying, *I wish I was married*. You're not going to say I wish for anything. All your desires, all your longings, fully and forever met in this place.
- F. Slide5b James Edward (NT Scholar) said, *"We can no more imagine heavenly existence than an infant in utero can imagine a Beethoven piano Concerto or the Grand Canyon at sunset."* PNTC Mark 12:25
- G. In fact, There **will be** marriage in heaven, **one marriage**, **Jesus** and *his bride*.
- H. The question really isn't, *will I be married in heaven?* The important question is, *will you be in heaven?*
- I. So **Heaven** it's not about *a reunion of loved ones* (though it includes that). **Heaven** is about **Jesus** and **His glory**.
- J. In Jonathan Edwards sermon, *"Heaven, A World of Love"*, his *Big Idea* was, **Heaven is not merely a place of beauty and rest, it is a world saturated in Divine Love. Every part of it, every soul in it, and every moment experienced there ... is filled with perfect, unhindered, eternal love.**
- K. Big Idea: Eternal life is not a puzzle to solve—it's a promise secured in Jesus.

V. Slide6 **LOVE (28-34)** Read a political question: Phar/ Hrd



- A. Our CM Mission Statement: to love God, completely. to love people authentically. to make disciples this globally. (here we have the 1st 2)
1. A total love for God and a sensitive love for others - is the essence of a life that pleases God.
- B. The rabbis divided the 613 precepts of the law (248 commands - 365 prohibitions) into weighty & light. Which command was more important?
- C. Jesus' reply was the Shema (Deut.6:4,5) which every pious Jew repeated twice a day.
1. Everything devoted to loving God. "It does not take much of a man to be a believer, but it takes all there is of him."
- D. The entire law is fulfilled in love, but we fall short. Only He has loved perfectly.
- E. The last sentence shows that they could not trap him, so they have to go to Plan B ... get Judas to turn Him over, so they could kill Him. Which points to his death.
1. In 3 days, when Jesus is hanging on the cross, and says, Father forgive them they know not what they do - He was perfectly living out love for God and love for Neighbor, at the same time!
- F. This Scribe had Theological clarification but did not grasp his personal obligation.
1. He didn't seem interested in defending the party line or even personal prejudice. His attitude was right, his heart seemed open.
  2. But salvation is not just about agreeing with Christ but submitting yourself to him. It's not just about Morality, you can't be perfect. It's not just about Sincerity, this guy was sincere but he's not in. The Temple was insufficient. Theological clarification w/o personal obligation is insufficient. [only the King can get us into the kingdom. He lived the life that we couldn't live, and did it perfectly. And died the death that we deserved for breaking His Law(s)].
    - a) The great danger for this person is that though they are not far from the kingdom of God, they are not in it. [almost saved is altogether lost].
- G. Are you near to the kingdom of God but not in? One step makes the difference.

1. **Like** the last step from the **dock** and into a **boat**. **Like** the final step of **boarding an airplane**.

a) Which begs the age-old question: Are you going to be found *sittin on the dock of the bay* **or** *leavin on a jet plane*?

H. Jesus not only *teaches* the greatest commandment, He *lives it perfectly* **and loves us sacrificially**.

1. Jesus was not just answering questions in these 3 conversations. He's revealing Himself as **the King of a greater Kingdom/Allegiance**, **the God of the living/future Hope**, and **the embodiment of Love**.

I. **Big Idea:** The greatest commandment/love, was fulfilled by the greatest Person/Jesus, for the greatest good/*our salvation*.

J. **No end song. Have stand.**

K. **\*End Announce:** **Today @Risk. Hoofbeats for Hope**, 3-5pm. They offer therapy for foster children & any children who have experienced **trauma** - through horse back riding lessons.

L. **Tuesday:** Ladies don't miss **REAL** this Tuesday. *A night of worship led by Shannon Quintana*. Fellowship Hall at 7pm.

M. **Keywords:** Allegiance, hope, love.