

Sermon Notes

“Questioning Jesus?”

Mark 6:2-3

“Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him.”

WHAT QUESTION WOULD YOU ASK JESUS?

SEVEN KINDS OF QUESTION PEOPLE ASKED AROUND JESUS

We might assume that the questions people asked around Jesus would be mainly asking for information, or seeking learning and wisdom. But the Bible is not all faked up with neat questions and answers like that. It's raw and real eyewitness accounts. It's records real messy questions!

1. QUESTIONS OF AMAZED WONDER: “SAY WHAT? WHAT’S THIS?”

Mark 1:27. *And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority!”*

Mark 6:2. *“Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?”*

These days questions of wonder aren't asked enough. Questions of wonder aren't necessarily looking for answers. They are an expression of amazement. What does it mean that this was the first kind of question asked about Jesus?

2. CURIOUS QUESTIONS: “WHY?”

Anselm Of Canterbury “Cur Deus Homo” ~1096AD

Mark 2:16. *“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

Mark 2:24. *“Why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”*

Mark 7:5. *“Why don’t your disciples keep the tradition of the elders?”*

If ‘why’ is your favourite kind of question, you might enjoy hanging around with Jesus!

3. QUESTIONS OF BEWILDERMENT: “WHAT’S GOING ON?”

Mark 8:4. *“How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?”*

Mark 4:38. *“Teacher, doesn’t it concern you that we are perishing?”*

Mark 5:7. *“What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?”*

Mark 14:12. *“Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?”*

This confusion and bewilderment is particularly something Mark emphasises about the disciples. In this world I am sometimes bewildered, confused, unsure. But the answer IS Jesus,

4. LEARNER’S QUESTIONS: “WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?”

Mark 10:17. *“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

Mark 10:26. *“Who can be saved?”*

Mark 12:28. *“Which commandment is the most important of all?”*

Mark 13:3-4. *“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?”*

This is what being a disciple is – a learner of Jesus – eternally.

What’s your learner’s question?

5. WEAPONISED QUESTIONS: “DO YOU DARE ANSWER?”

“Do you feel lucky, punk?” - Dirty Harry

People used aggressive weaponised questions on Jesus – a lot. Their questions were often attempts to trick him, test him, and trap him.

Mark 10:2. *And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”*

Mark 12:13-14. *And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?”*

Mark 12:18,23. *And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question... “Seven men had the woman as wife. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be?”*

Mark 12:34. *And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

6. CLOSED QUESTIONS: “YES OR NO? ARE YOU OR AREN’T YOU?”

*“Aren’t you a little short for a stormtrooper?” – Princess Leia
Isn’t it true that you were angry with her? - The Lawyer*

Mark 1:24. *“Have you come to destroy us?”*

Mark 11:28. *“Who gave you this authority to do these things?”*

Mark 14:61. *But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”*

Mark 15:2-5. *And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.*

Sometimes even prayers turn into closed questions. We ask God questions that require answers in our format. Notice how Jesus responded to these ‘yes or no’ kind of closed questions? He did not let people box him in. He answered with silence or questions of his own. When we come to God in prayer we need to ask something open and let God expand our horizons.

7. DISMISSIVE QUESTIONS: “WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW?”

Mark 2:6-7. *“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

Mark 6:3. *“Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.*

These questions are not seeking answers – but to dismiss or reject.

The New Living Translation didn’t even translate these as questions but as statements: *“He’s just the carpenter, the son of Mary...”* This is fair because these questions are actually dismissive statements.

JESUS IS GOD, HUMBLD ENOUGH TO EVEN FACE YOUR QUESTIONS!

This is God’s love. That God came down for you, like you, to suffer like you, to wear your skin and bones, and to die like you one day, so that you don’t have to fear. God came to face your questions, and to go right into the heart of uncertainty. When you have questions about evil or suffering, the only One who is qualified to answer is Jesus, who has faced them for you. All your questions find a place and an answer in Jesus Christ!

What kind of question does Jesus welcome? Any question where you actually seek an answer!

What questions do you have for Jesus today?