

The Question Maker

“To question well is to teach well”

Charles DeGarmo

I. What is a question?

II. The Grand Questioner

Look at Luke 2:41-52

- What questions were asked?
- Who asked the questions and what are they seeking to accomplish through their questions?

III. Why ask questions? (see Proverbs 2:1-11)

“The real object of education is to have a man in the condition of continually asking questions.” Bishop Creighton

IV. Four Flavors of Questions

- Observation - *(seeks knowledge)*
- Interpretation - *(pursues understanding)*
- Application - *(develops wisdom)*
- Illustration - *(engages imagination)*

“The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions which have been hidden by the answers.” James Baldwin

V. How did Jesus use questions in his teaching? (Information in this section is from the book **“Teaching As Jesus Taught”** by Roy B. Zuck • Baker Books)

- *According to Zuck in the gospels Jesus asked 225 different questions.*
- *He asking his questions to a variety of individuals and groups, including the disciples (64), individuals/small groups (62), adversaries (50) and the crowds (49).*
- *Jesus asked questions so that through the formulation of the answer or the grappling with it the person would discover truth that would be remembered more deeply than if they were simply given information.*

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“If you don’t ask the right questions, you don’t get the right answers.” Edward Hodnett

VI. What kinds of questions did Jesus ask? (Information in this section is also from the book **“Teaching As Jesus Taught”** by Roy B. Zuck • Baker Books)

The Purposes of Jesus’ Questions: page 241

1. To petition for information or to recall facts; Mark 8:19
2. To promote conversation; John 4:7
3. To point out something contrary to fact; Matthew 20:22
4. To procure assent; Matthew 12:11
5. To push for an expression of faith; Matthew 16:15
6. To prod for an opinion or and expression of a desire; Matthew 20:32
7. To prove or test faith or spiritual commitment; John 6:5,6
8. To promote thinking or reflection; Mark 8:36,37
9. To persuade critics of their errors; Matthew 22:31-32
10. To pull person(s) up short; Matthew 8:26; Luke 2:49
11. To pour out an emotion; Mark 9:19
12. To probe for motives; Matthew 22:18
13. To prick the conscience; Matthew 15:3
14. To pinpoint a topic; Mark 4:30
15. To press for application of the truth (using an illustration or parable) Luke 7:42; 10:36

VII. What do we learn from Jesus’ question asking? (Information in this section is also from the book **“Teaching As Jesus Taught”** by Roy B. Zuck • Baker Books) page 255

1. Ask questions that challenge; avoid those that give away the answers or end in guessing.
2. Ask questions that are clear; avoid ambiguous questions.
3. Ask questions that are specific and brief; avoid those that are too general and broad.
4. Ask a variety of questions; avoid always using the same kind.
5. Ask questions in an atmosphere of acceptance and respect; avoid asking questions that ridicule or belittle.
6. Ask questions to help students improve a weak response to a former question:
Can you expand on that a little more? What do you mean by that? Can you give an example?
7. Encourage students to interact with others’ ideas.
Do the rest of you agree? What do you think of that idea?
8. Encourage quieter students to respond to your questions by calling on them by name.

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“Truth fears no questions” Anonymous

VIII. Seven Intellectual Levels of Learning and How to Direct Questions to Those Levels

(Information in this section is from the book **“Classroom Questions:What Kinds?”** by Norris M. Sanders)

1. Memory

In asking a memory question, you want the student to remember, recall or recognize something previously learned. *Helpful verbs in these questions are: name, list, tell, define, identify.*

2. Translation

In a translation question, the student is asked to speak an answer in a form different from that which was presented. *Key verbs in these questions are: paraphrase, summarize, translate, describe in your own words.*

3. Interpretation

The student is asked to demonstrate his or her interpretation of comprehension of something learned. *Key verbs are: compare, contrast, explain, give an example, imply infer.*

4. Application

The student is challenged to apply learned facts or skills to a new situation. *Helpful verbs are calculate, decide, predict, produce, solve.*

5. Analysis

The analysis question prods the student to identify parts of a problem to see how they are similar or different. *Useful verbs are: distinguish, point out, select, diagram, what reasons are given, what structure is evident.*

6. Synthesis

A synthesis question asks the student to put elements or parts together to create a new plan or procedure. *Helpful verbs in these questions are: compare, create, devise, plan, reorganize*

7. Evaluation

The highest level of cognitive learning, calls for the student to judge the degree to which something meets a standard or criterion. *Verbs in evaluation questions are appraise, assess, critique, detect fallacies, evaluate, form criteria, judge, support.*

IX. Responding: What do you remember from this workshop? How would you summarize it? What are some examples of new questions you could ask in your Bible study? What from this workshop have you decided to use? What would you select as key in Jesus’ questioning style? How would you draw a picture of what you learned today? How would you assess the usefulness of this workshop to you?

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The Questions Jesus Asked
Craig Parker - October 1995

Consider the model of Jesus:

Luke 2:46-47 After three days they found him in the temple courts,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and
asking them questions.
Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and
his answers.

1. Matt. 5:46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?
2. Matt. 5:46 Are not even the tax collectors doing that?
3. Matt. 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"
4. Matt. 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?
5. Matt. 6:27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
6. Matt. 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.
7. Matt. 6:30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"
8. Matt. 7:4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? (Cf. Lk. 7:42)
9. Matt. 7:9 Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
10. Matt. 7:10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?
11. Matt. 7:16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
12. Matt. 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.
13. Matt. 9:5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?
14. Matt. 9:28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied.
15. Matt. 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.
16. Matt. 11:7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? (Cf. Lk. 7:24ff)
17. Matt. 11:8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces.
18. Matt. 11:9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
19. Matt. 11:23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. (Cf. Lk. 10:15)
20. Matt. 12:3-4 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread --which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. (Cf. Mk. 2:23)
21. Matt. 12:5 Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent?"
22. Matt. 12:11-12 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."
23. Matt. 12:26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?
24. Matt. 12:27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.
25. Matt. 12:29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.
26. Matt. 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
27. Matt. 12:48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"
28. Matt. 13:51 "Have you understood all these things [the parables]?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied.
29. Matt. 14:31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"
30. Matt. 15:3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"
31. Matt. 15:16 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.
32. Matt. 15:17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?"
33. Matt. 15:34 "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."
34. Matt. 16:8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?"

35. Matt. 16:9-10 Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?
36. Matt. 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
37. Matt. 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
38. Matt. 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
39. Matt. 17:17 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me."
40. Matt. 17:25 "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes --from their own sons or from others?"
41. Matt. 18:12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?"
42. Matt. 18:33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"
43. Matt. 19:17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."
44. Matt. 20:6 About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?" (Cf. Mk. 10:3)
45. Matt. 20:13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?"
46. Matt. 20:15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"
47. Matt. 20:21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."
48. Matt. 20:22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.
49. Matt. 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"
50. Matt. 21:24 Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
51. Matt. 21:28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'
52. Matt. 21:31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.
53. Matt. 21:40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" (Cf. Mk. 12:9)
54. Matt. 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"
55. Matt. 22:12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.
56. Matt. 22:18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"
57. Matt. 22:20 and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"
58. Matt. 22:31 But about the resurrection of the dead --have you not read what God said to you,
59. Matt. 22:41-42 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied.
60. Matt. 22:43-44 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." "
61. Matt. 22:45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"
62. Matt. 23:17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?
63. Matt. 23:19 You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?
64. Matt. 23:33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"
65. Matt. 24:2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
66. Matt. 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"
67. Matt. 26:10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.
68. Matt. 26:40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.
69. Matt. 26:45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
70. Matt. 26:53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"
71. Matt. 26:54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"
72. Matt. 26:55 At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.

73. Matt. 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
74. Mark 2:8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? (Cf. Mt. 9:2-8)
75. Mark 3:4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. (Cf. Lk. 6:9)
76. Mark 3:23 So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? (Cf. Mt.12:26ff)
77. Mark 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"
78. Mark 4:21 He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"
79. Mark 4:30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"
80. Mark 4:40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Cf. Mt. 8:26)
81. Mark 5:9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
82. Mark 5:30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"
83. Mark 5:39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."
84. Mark 8:12 He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it."
85. Mark 8:17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? (Cf. Mt. 16:8ff)
86. Mark 8:18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?"
87. Mark 8:19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied.
88. Mark 8:20 "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven."
89. Mark 8:21 He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"
90. Mark 8:23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"
91. Mark 9:12 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?"
92. Mark 9:16 "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.
93. Mark 9:33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?"
94. Mark 9:50 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."
95. Mark 10:3 "What did Moses command you?" he replied.
96. Mark 10:36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.
97. Mark 11:17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.' ? But you have made it `a den of robbers.' "
98. Mark 12:24 Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? (Cf. Mt. 22:29)
99. Mark 12:35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?"
100. Mark 13:2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." (Cf. Mt. 24:2)
101. Mark 14:37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?"
102. Mark 14:48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"
103. Luke 2:49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
104. Luke 6:33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. (Mt. 5:46)
105. Luke 6:34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' lend to `sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full.
106. Luke 6:39 He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"
107. Luke 6:41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"
108. Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, `Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
109. Luke 7:31 "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like?"
110. Luke 7:44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair."
111. Luke 8:25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." (Cf. Mt. 14:31)
112. Luke 8:30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him.
113. Luke 8:45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

114. Luke 10:26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"
115. Luke 10:36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"
116. Luke 11:12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?
117. Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
118. Luke 11:40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?
119. Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
120. Luke 12:17 He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."
121. Luke 12:20 "But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"
122. Luke 14:5 Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?"
123. Luke 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"
124. Luke 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"
125. Luke 14:34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"
126. Luke 15:4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"
127. Luke 15:8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?"
128. Luke 16:11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"
129. Luke 16:12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"
130. Luke 17:7 "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, "Come along now and sit down to eat?"
131. Luke 17:9 Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?"
132. Luke 17:17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"
133. Luke 18:8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
134. Luke 18:19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good --except God alone.
135. Luke 18:41 "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.
136. Luke 20:4 John's baptism --was it from heaven, or from men?"
137. Luke 20:15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?"
138. Luke 20:24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?"
139. Luke 20:41 Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David?"
140. Luke 20:44 David calls him "Lord." How then can he be his son?"
141. Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.
142. Luke 22:35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered.
143. Luke 22:46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."
144. Luke 22:48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
145. Luke 22:52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs?"
146. Luke 23:31 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
147. Luke 24:17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.
148. Luke 24:38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"
149. Luke 24:41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"
150. John 1:38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"
151. John 2:4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."
152. John 3:10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"
153. John 3:12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"
154. John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"
155. John 5:44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?"
156. John 5:47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

157. John 6:5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"
158. John 6:61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"
159. John 6:62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!
160. John 6:67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.
161. John 6:70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"
162. John 7:19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"
163. John 7:23 Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?
164. John 8:10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"
165. John 8:43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.
166. John 8:46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?
167. John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
168. John 10:32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"
169. John 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods' ?
170. John 10:35-36 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came --and the Scripture cannot be broken--what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"
171. John 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light.
172. John 11:26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
173. John 11:34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.
174. John 11:40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
175. John 13:12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.
176. John 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
177. John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.
178. John 16:19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"
179. John 18:4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"
180. John 18:11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"
181. John 18:21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."
182. John 18:23 "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"
183. John 18:34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"
184. John 20:15 "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."
185. John 21:5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered.
186. John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."
187. John 21:22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."
188. Acts 9:4 "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 26:14)

Preliminary Categories of Questions:

- Authority/Truth :** But what does the scripture say?
- Consequences:** What reward will you get
- Curiosity:** What did you go out to see?
- Value:** Will you give him a snake?
- Reason/Common Sense:** Which proved to be a neighbor?
- Understanding:** Are you so dull?
- Circumstances/Observation:** How many loaves do you have?
- Opinion:** Who do you say I am?
- Description/Comparison:** What is the Kingdom of God like?
- Issues of the heart:** Why are you so afraid? Do you want to get well?
- Simple Rhetorical:** Have I not chosen you the 12?
- Information:** Do you have anything here to eat?
- Confrontation:** But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?

On the following three pages are three ways to categorize Jesus' questions designed by Pastor Todd D. Catteau in Denison, TX. Make multiple copies of these three sheets and look at these 188 questions of Jesus. How would you categorize each of these questions?

Information for this exercise was taken from "Discipleship Journal's Best Bible Study Methods" Navpress, Chapter 20 pages 93-95.

Validating Questions

Many times Jesus asked questions to prove what He said actually made sense. In Matthew 6:25 Jesus made the significant statement, “Do not worry about your life.” To validate this teaching, he followed it with a series of questions; “Isn’t life more important than food and clothes?” “Aren’t you more valuable than the birds?” “Can worry add a single hour to you life?” When we honestly answer such questions, we can’t help but agree with Jesus’ original statement. (Other examples of validating questions appear in Luke 6:27-32 and 9:23-25)

What is the question?

What is the question?

What is the statement being validated?

What is the statement being validated?

What are potential objections to the statement?

What are potential objections to the statement?

How are the objections resolved?

How are the objections resolved?

Challenge Questions

Jesus lived in a religious culture in which false ideas flourished—and so do we. He challenged these ideas by asking questions. In Luke 13:1-2 Jesus challenged the Jewish understanding of suffering. Any type of suffering was thought to be a direct result of sin. (See John 9) Following a report of a tragedy involving some Galileans, Jesus challenged assumptions by asking, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? His question forced listeners to reconsider their current views.

What is the question?

What is the question?

What are the false areas being challenged?

What are the false areas being challenged?

What are the reasons for these false ideas?

What are the reasons for these false ideas?

What clearer understanding do you arrive at?

What clearer understanding do you arrive at?

Faith Questions

Often Jesus prefaced a miracle with a question, such as, “Do you want to get well? (John 5:6). It seems like a preposterous thing to ask! Perhaps Jesus intended to help the person identify the object of his or her faith, and, in so doing, to deepen that person’s faith in Him. Jesus also asked faith-building questions after episodes that demonstrated a lack of faith. In Matthew 14:31, for example, Jesus rescued Peter from his water-walk and then asked, “Why did you doubt?” That question was left ringing in Peter’s ears and reminded him to have faith.

What is the question?

What is the question?

What is the context of the question?

What is the context of the question?

What is the significance of the question?

What is the significance of the question?

How does the question deepen faith?

How does the question deepen faith?