

SERMON SERIES | JULY 23 - SEPT 3

Jesus is the ~~Answer~~ QUESTION

Week 1: What Do You Want?

Read: John 1: 34-42

- Is Jesus your Answer?
- What can we learn from the fact that Jesus is 40 times more likely to ask a question than to give an answer? How does He teach through questions?
- What questions should we be asking?

Jesus repeatedly asks "what are you looking for?"

- If Jesus asked you that question, what would be your reply?

When John's disciples turned to Jesus, they asked him "where are you staying?" Jesus replied "Come...and you will see." John 1:39

- What do you think Jesus' reply teaches us
- How can we invite others to "come and see" Jesus?

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**Week 2 - Do You See This Woman?
July 30 2023**

Read Luke 7: 36-50

Rob spoke today about really "seeing" those around us.

1. Who do you look past, and not see, even though they might be right in front of you?
2. Rob stated that he became so accustomed to panhandlers in Toronto that he reached a point where he just didn't see them. What do you think is the right response to panhandlers, and others that our society chooses to disregard, or look down upon?
3. Who were the people in Jesus' time that society chose to disregard? How did Jesus treat them?
4. Would you have "seen" this woman if you were a guest at the dinner referenced in Luke 7?
5. How is really "seeing" someone the first step to compassion? How does compassion lead to action?
6. Does failure to see the needs of others impair our ability to "see" Jesus?
7. How do we "see" our family, community, selves - what are some of our negative, or corrupted views? How does Jesus "see" us, and those around us?

Luke 8:22-25

²² One day Jesus said to His disciples, *'Let us go over to the other side of the lake.'* So they got into a boat and set out.

²³ As they sailed, He fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke Him, saying, *'Master, Master, we're going to drown!'* He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

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.'*

Jesus is the Question: "Where is your faith?" Sermon Notes

"Will the Lord provide and protect us?"

He is a covenant-keeping, promise-keeping God

1. Jesus led the disciples into the storm, v22

God is holy & sovereign **and** holy & loving

"I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create the darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things", Isaiah 45:6b-7

Storms can hit suddenly and without warning

Storms test, develop and reveal our character

2. Storms hit believers, even obedient believers

Jesus led by example

Jesus appeared to go AWOL

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you", Hebrews 13:5

Storms expose how we are not trusting in the Lord

Faith is not faith until it is tested

Storms reveal our distorted view of ourselves

Storms reveal our distorted view of Jesus

How big is your God?

Three types of Biblical faith

- a. Believing Faith, Ephesians 2:8-9
- b. Faith for miracles, 1 Corinthians 12:9
- c. Day-to-day Faith, Hebrews 11:1; *“Where is your faith?”*, v25

Will the Faithful One be faithful?

Great value in weak faith

We have to choose to put our faith in Jesus

***“Who is this?”*, v25**

Jesus is fully human and fully divine

What happens when Jesus doesn’t calm the storm?

Is it wrong to doubt?

Unbelief is a killer

What if the boat does sink?

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”, Philippians 1:21

Discussion questions

- a. Describe a physical storm that you were caught in. What was your reaction? Were you excited, frightened, asleep?
- b. Describe a storm of life that hit you unexpectedly? What were your feelings during it? Did you cry out to the Lord and, if so, how did He respond? What did you learn from this?
- c. How might knowing that God is both holy and sovereign and holy and loving help you the next time you are in the midst of a storm? How might this truth equip you to help others when they are in a storm?
- d. When faced with the question, *“Will the Lord God provide for me and protect me?”* what is your response, and why?
- e. How has your faith been recently tested? Why do you think that the Lord allowed it to be tested in this manner?
- f. What is your response to the question about Jesus, *“Who is this?”*? Why do you respond that way? How does this affect your daily walk of faith?

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**Week 4 - If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?
August 6 2023**

Read Luke 6:32-36

1. In this passage, Jesus states *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them."* Why is this way of life not sufficient from Jesus's perspective?
2. Are the good things we do transactional, or conditional on reciprocity? What examples can you think of?
3. How does this passage differ from and extend the Golden Rule ("So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..?" Matthew 7:12)
4. How do we establish in ourselves a heart, or will to live out Jesus' message in today's reading?
5. What might choosing a compassionate lifestyle look like in our lives?

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Week 5 - Why Do You Worry? (Guest Preacher: Simon Davis)

Read Matthew 6: 25-34

1. What do you worry about? What makes you anxious?
2. How does serving anything but God (money, work, relationships, etc) lead to anxiety?
3. Simon pointed out that we are called to be diligent in our work, but not to be anxious:
4. What is the difference between these two approaches to life?
5. What is the opposite of anxiety? Do you believe God will provide for you? If you feel you are lacking in provision, do you still have confidence in God's love for you?
6. How does seeing our possessions as belonging to God, while we are just stewards, help free us from anxiety?
7. How does Jesus' guarantee of our eternal future give us security?

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Week 6: What is Your Name?

Read: Mark 5:1-20

Rob pointed out that Jesus' questions are never just questions, but an invitation.

- What is your name? Do you feel like your name fits? Do ever wish you had a different name?
- Why is the question "What is your name?" profound and life changing when Jesus asks it?
- How does asking someone's name establish, or contribute to, intimacy, relationship and purpose / mission?
- How is your identity and your mission related? What is the connection between "being" and "doing"?
- How is our identity different from our profession, or our activities?
- How does Jesus help us find out who we really are?