

Questions that Lead Us to Conquer

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- If Solomon had been inspired to write about the season of questions and answers, he might have written: “A time to ask questions, and a time to accept the answers.”
- Questions are good for us, both to ask and to answer. A good question can lead us to success or to avoid harm
 - “He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.” (Chinese proverb)
- On the other hand, some questions and the manner in which they are asked can do harm and should not be answered
 - “There are no right answers to wrong questions.” (Ursula K. Le Guin)

Questions that Lead Us to Conquer

- All questions are not alike.
 - It is a mistake to assume that every question represents a desire to learn an answer.
 - It is equally a mistake to assume that every question indicates a lack of faith on the part of the questioner

Honest Questions

- Questions are used for learning
 - Luke 8:4-10 - “And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: 5 A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things He cried, He who has ears to hear, let him hear! 9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, What does this parable mean? 10 And He said, To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.”

Honest Questions

- Jesus knew the value of questions from childhood
 - Luke 2:46 - “Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.”

Honest Questions

- Questions are used for teaching
 - Greek philosopher Socrates made asking questions into an art-form.
 - Teachers know that students often forget instruction, but when they work to find answers, the information is more likely to be remembered.

Honest Questions

- Socratic questions
 - Questions for clarification
 - Questions that probe assumptions
 - Questions that probe reasons and evidence
 - Questions about viewpoints and perspectives
 - Questions that probe implications and consequences
 - Questions about the question

Honest Questions

- Jesus often used this form of teaching with his disciples.
- Jesus was able to get the disciples to realize what they already believed.
 - Mark 8:27-29, 31 - “Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, Who do men say that I am? 28 So they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets. 29 He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Peter answered and said to Him, You are the Christ... 31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must...”

Honest Questions

- Questions were used to highlight what a person needed to learn
 - Mark 9:31-34 - “For He taught His disciples and said to them, The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day. 32 But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him. 33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road? 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.”

Honest Questions

- Even though they did not know the answers to Jesus' questions, the questions prepared them to receive His answer.
- The effort to answer a question can make a person realize how much they need to learn

Honest Questions

- Luke 20:1-8 - “Now it happened on one of those days, as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted Him 2 and spoke to Him, saying, Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority? 3 But He answered and said to them, I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me: 4 The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men? 5 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, If we say, From heaven, He will say, Why then did you not believe him? 6 But if we say, From men, all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet. 7 So they answered that they did not know where it was from. 8 And Jesus said to them, Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Honest Questions

- Matt. 22:41-46 - “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He? They said to Him, The Son of David. 43 He said to them, How then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying: 44 The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool? 45 If David then calls Him Lord, how is He his Son? 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”

Honest Questions

- Questions are used to motivate people to action
- David questioned the people as to why no one answered Goliath's challenge

Honest Questions

- 1Sam. 17:26-30 - “Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him in this manner, saying, So shall it be done for the man who kills him. 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I done now? Is there not a cause? 30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Some ask questions to avoid the truth or their responsibility to it
 - John 18:37-38 - “Pilate therefore said to Him, Are You a king then? Jesus answered, You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice. 38 Pilate said to Him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, I find no fault in Him at all.”
- Pilate’s question becomes a declaration of his belief.

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Some ask questions to trap or harm others.
 - Matt. 22:23-29 - “The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. 27 Last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her. 29 Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- The Pharisees viewed their question as unanswerable
 - Matt. 22:34-35 - “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Some questions should not be asked
 - 1Cor. 10:25 - “Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Some ask questions to generate controversy
 - 1Tim. 6:3-5 - “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”
 - 2Tim. 2:23 - “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- When people disagree, when they are divided and easy to destroy
 - Luke 11:17 - “...Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.”
- Unity strengthens
 - Ecc. 4:12 - “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Titus was warned to avoid the foolish controversies of divisive brethren
 - Titus 3:9-11 - “But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- Some questions are asked to increase ignorance, asked about things they do not and cannot know. The ignorant spend time asking and debating them because it makes feel scholarly
 - 1Tim. 1:3-8 - “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. 8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully”

Not All Questions Are Sincere

- 2Tim. 2:14-18 - “Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”

Questions that Lead Us to Conquer

- There is a time and manner in which we should ask our questions; and then, there is a time and manner in which to accept the answer.

Questions that Lead Us to Conquer

- Jer. 12:1-5 - “Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously? 2 You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are near in their mouth But far from their mind. 3 But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter. 4 How long will the land mourn, And the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed, For the wickedness of those who dwell there, Because they said, He will not see our final end. 5 If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?”