Questions Jesus Asked

What do you want me to do for you?

March 1 & 2, 2014; Scott Chapman

SERIES OVERVIEW (Read or Summarize)
You can often tell a lot about a person based upon the questions they ask. In the case of Jesus, the questions he asked were often very provocative and revealed the heart of the person he was talking to. Jesus often got to the truth of a situation simply by the question he would ask. During this series we will look at some of the questions Jesus posed to people and how those same questions apply to our lives.

ICEBREAKER (Optional: Read or Summarize)
This probably sounds familiar: I wish I had, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight. Better yet, how about the daydream of finding the Genie in the bottle and getting three wishes. Our minds wander to places like eternal youth, a beautiful spouse, millions of dollars, big houses, even... more wishes. We think of how much simpler life could be, not having to work, and of course – we think of how philanthropic we would be – right?

Question: You find an old bottle, brush it off and a Genie appears before you. What would you wish for?

MESSAGE REFLECTION (Read or Summarize)

Matthew 20:29-34 As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. There were two blind men sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” The crowd told them to keep quiet, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” Jesus stopped, called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” “Lord,” they said to Him, “open our eyes!” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they could see, and they followed Him.

Imagine Jesus asking you the question, “What do you want me to do for you?” The sky is the limit, right? Or is it? The two blind men saw Jesus clearly; no doubt they heard the stories of Jesus’ miracles and healings. They knowingly referred to Jesus as the Son of David, understanding that he is the Messiah. They did not answer Jesus with, “restore our sight”, or “heal our blindness”, they responded with “open our eyes”. It is reminiscent of an older worship song that refrains, “Open our eye’s Lord, we want to see Jesus”. Read 1 Chronicles 1:7-10 and note Solomon’s request.

Question: Do you think the blind men wanted more than their physical sight when they said “open our eye’s”? Why? If Jesus asked you what He could do for you, what would you ask? Explain.
The two blind men saw themselves clearly before Jesus. In verse 30 the blind men asked Jesus to have mercy on them. The blind men are admitting they are empty-handed and broken. They are not protesting their blindness, telling Jesus they deserve to be healed or are worthy of being healed. The blind men have nothing to impress Jesus that will change anything, and truthfully, neither do we. We tend to create an exterior of perfection where we act like everything is fine. We learn that sometimes people don’t accept our brokenness and need. We will even take that exterior To God, acting like we have it all together.

Questions: Have you ever created an exterior of perfection for yourself? Explain. Has this exterior found its way in front of God? Can we truly see ourselves clearly before God? What does he see in us?

The two blind men saw the crowd clearly. In verse 31 the crowd told them to be quiet. Yet the blind men cried out louder and could not be silenced; they were not going to let anything get between them and Jesus. These men persevered in their faith, Jesus heard them, and He stopped. The crowd can limit our ability to relate to Jesus. For another example, read Matthew 19.13-15. It’s easy to swim with the tide of popular opinion, but when it comes time to swim upstream, the effort becomes difficult and frightening. Believers and non-believers alike have the ability to stand in the way of our relationship with Jesus, yet faith ignores the voice of the crowd and seeks to hear and follow the voice of God.

Questions: Discuss a time when you went with the flow of the crowd instead of listening to the voice of your faith. How did you feel? Did that moment change your faith? Explain.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight,

Jesus allowed margin in His day to stop and have a moment with the blind men. In verse 34 it says that Jesus was moved with compassion. Jesus saw the blind men’s faith and He was bursting with love for these men. The blind men wanted Jesus more than anything else, and when Jesus set them free from their affliction they chose to follow Jesus. The compassion that Christ had for these blind men is the same compassion He has for us. Jesus desires to have a relationship with us that is filled with honesty about our own condition. It’s not about what we can physically see, but what we can spiritually see about how Jesus can mend our brokenness.

Questions: Think about a time you have felt broken or unlovable. Did you find yourself going to God or to something else? Explain why you didn’t go to God, or how God comforted you.

NEXT STEP: Pick an area where you need to be more transparent with God about yourself. As a group, encourage and pray for one another to draw closer to God. Challenge each other to rely on God’s guidance and less on the court of popular opinion.
PROVIDE US WITH FEEDBACK

We are excited about the potential these studies have to help each of us process the weekend message at a deeper level, and to see God change our lives in significant ways. In order to make these guides as helpful as possible, we would love to hear which elements are most helpful, which are least helpful, as well as any other comments, questions or suggestions. Feel free to send your feedback directly to Ray Ercoli at rercoli@chapel.org.