



THE RIGHT QUESTION

JESUS IS THE ANSWER – NOT THE ANSWER MAN

- ▶ According to author Martin B. Copenhaver, Jesus answered many more questions than he asked. He asked 307 questions, he was asked 183 questions and he only directly answered 3. That means he only answered one question for every one hundred that he asked. This may seem strange to us, but this makes perfect sense if you understand Jewish culture.

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- ▶ Author Richard Rohr writes In general, we can see that Jesus' style is almost exactly the opposite of modern televangelism or even the mainline church approach of 'Dear Abby' bits of inspiring advice and workable solutions for daily living. Jesus is too much the Jewish prophet to merely stabilize the status quo with platitudes.
- ▶ [Answers] give us more of a feeling of success and closure... Easy answers instead of hard questions allow us to try to change others instead of allowing God to change us.

The Power of Questions

- ▶ If God is omniscient, meaning God knows everything, then obviously God's purpose for asking questions cannot be because God is trying to understand something or find out information. Rather, God's questions are designed to evoke curiosity, reflection, and are even designed to cause us to self identify and admit our true motivations.

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- ▶ Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? (**Matthew 9:4**)
 - ▶ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? (**Matthew 9:5**)
 - ▶ How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? (**Matthew 9:15**)
 - ▶ Do you believe that I am able to do this? (**Matthew 9:28**)
 - ▶ What do you think? (**Matthew 21:28**)
 - ▶ Have you never read in the Scriptures? (**Matthew 21:42**)
 - ▶ Why are you trying to trap me? (**Matthew 22:18**)
 - ▶ What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he? (**Matthew 22:42**)
 - ▶ Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?
Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?
(**Matthew 23:17-19**)

Christian Curiosity

- ▶ Is my life a reflection of the kingdom or of the culture?
- ▶ What demands does the cross make upon me?
- ▶ How am I blessed to serve God and others in this season of my life?
- ▶ What spiritual legacy will I leave? Where and what is my fruit?
- ▶ Is what I talk about to God consistent with what God talks about to me?
- ▶ Am I conscience of when I'm being spirit lead or flesh driven?