

HOW JESUS ANSWERED QUESTIONS

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INTRODUCTION:

A. Notice the way Peter (and US) answered questions:

1. See (Matt. 17:24-25) READ, see specially verse 24 and verse 25, "Yes"
 - a. A response by Peter rather quickly, Yes or no and it is the way we often answer.
 - b. For most of us, we are only interested in given information away or being right and nothing else. (Example at work) is about pride even though nobody wants to admit it.
 - c. Notice how Jesus puts in doubt the simple response of Peter, to obligate him to consider the implications of his response (see Matt. 17:25-27).

B. It is a contrast that we can see in Jesus' method in answering questions

1. (Matthew 11:2-3) READ
2. There was a good opportunity before Jesus to respond to them bluntly, "Yes, I am the Messiah!" But notice that Jesus responded in a different manner (Matthew 11:4-6) see how Jesus responded, READ
3. Did Jesus answer their question? I wonder...yes He did!

C. The purpose of this sermon:

1. I will like to present you with some illustrations of Jesus' response to some of the question that were made to Him. At the same time we will make some observations from these examples.
2. We want to learn how to answer better the questions of others, therefore arriving to be better teachers before an audience, or teaching someone at home.
3. We want to study in depth the responses of Jesus to those who made the question.

I. IT IS NOT TO SATISFY OUR CURIOSITY

A. In several occasions it was presented before Jesus the option of just to satisfy the curiosity of the one who was making the question.

1. Instead, Jesus used the opportunity to teach. We will see that most of the questions asked to Jesus had to do with things like, "who?", "How many?", "When?", and "Where?"

B. Some examples:

1. (Matthew 11:2-6) The disciples of John make this question to Jesus (READ)
 - a. Jesus could have just said, "Yes, I am!" He did not, of what benefit could have been for the disciples of John?
 - b. In the contrary, notice how Jesus responds to them. It is for them to make a decision if Jesus was in fact the Messiah they were waiting for.
2. (Luke 13:22-30) His disciples make this question: "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?"
 - a. Jesus very well could have answer, "Well, yes" (Matt. 7:13-14) NASV – "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. 14 For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it." Perhaps His disciples would have question Jesus for the number, but this is the way Jesus responded, vs. 24 "Strive to enter by the narrow door..."

3. (Luke 17:20-21) – The Pharisees: “when the kingdom of God was coming”
 - a. Jesus could have answered them like this (Matthew 16:28) **READ**, but how could have this answer helped them?
 - b. Jesus answered them in such manner (Luke 17:20-21)

4. (Luke 17:37) – His disciples, concerning a coming destruction: “Where, Lord?”
 - a. Jesus once again could very easy have responded, “In Jerusalem!” As He answers latter in (Luke 21:20, 24), but there was something more important than the place where this was going to take place...
 - b. Jesus’ response to this question (Luke 17:37) **NASV** – “And answering they *said to Him, ‘Where, Lord?’ And He said to them, ‘Where the body is, there also will the vultures be gathered.’” To Jesus the reason was more important than the place, the reason it was because Jerusalem was like a death corpse, like a dead animal, corrupted, death to sin.

C. The lessons we learn from these responses:

1. In our Bible class we often see the following scenario, the teacher of the Bible class makes a question to a certain individual in the class, on which he/she does not know the answer and often enough we see the other people around that person to give the answer. The only worry of the persons providing the answer to the individual who doesn’t know the answer is for him/her to be right! The teacher wants for that individual to search and come to his/her own conclusion, for if somebody gives him the answer to the question he/she will still not know the answer.

2. Jesus did not give an easy answer to His disciples. Jesus wanted for them to come to **THEIR OWN** conclusion that He was the Messiah in light of the miracles, wonders and signs He performed and they have seen. Otherwise, they were not going to have a base for their faith, they will not have their own faith, a genuine faith. The example of the young Christian, “All the preachers that I have listened in this congregation preach about the necessity of baptism that is essential for salvation, but over there in the Baptist church they teach...” The point is this, what do you believe is the correct teaching according to the Bible?

3. “It does not matter how few are going to heaven, if we will not be found with them!” But our savior said, “**Strive to enter by the narrow door...**”

4. The kingdom of God is not a physical kingdom, but many are more concerned about being able to know the date on which the church began. They are more concern about the building and its maintenance; they are more interested about the numbers on the contribution, attendance, etc., but what about the kingdom of God reigning in my heart? Should I be concern above everything about having Christ first in my life?

5. Where is the dead body? There, it will come judgment and there is where we have to make a resolution to go back to the Father!

6. Jesus answered in this manner because He wanted to teach. As soon as the answer is given to man, he will forget, he will not think in searching for the answer **NO MORE!** When man stops thinking, he will stop learning. Jesus therefore answered in such a way for the benefit of those who made the questions, for them to learn and for us as well. That is why so often Jesus will answer a question with a question, always forced the one making the question and those who were listening challenging them to think, thus eventually to learn!

II. “HAVE YOU NOT READ?”

A. Some of these examples are found in this category, on which Jesus will respond, “Have you not read?”

1. In this case we see that the one making the question should know the answer according to the scriptures. The problem of the one making the question was not lack of knowledge, but rather not putting in practice what he knew from the scriptures.

B. Some examples:

1. (**Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:2-9**) – The Pharisees: make the following question to Jesus, “**Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?**”
 - a. The response of Jesus to their question in (**Matt. 19:4-6**) **READ**
 - b. The Pharisees knew what the scriptures said, but were not satisfied with what the Bible said, with the implication of what the word of God.
2. (**Luke 10:25-37**) – The lawyer’s question: “**Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**”
 - a. Notice how Jesus responded, “**What is written in the law? How does it read to you?**” (vs. 26)
 - b. The lawyer answered correctly! He knew the correct answer, he answered his own question!
 - c. Then the lawyer trying to justify himself makes the following question, “And who is my neighbor?” He knew the answer to this question as well! Notice how he answers on verse 37
 - d. What then was his problem? Not doing what he knew, Jesus told him at the end, “**Go and DO the same**”
3. (**Mark 2:23-28; Matt. 12:1-8**) – The Pharisees question: “**Why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?**”
 - a. Jesus response, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need...?” (vs. 25)
 - b. Probably they read it, but it was inconsequential in their way of treating David versus Jesus and or His disciples. They honor David even though he may have transgressed the law in that occasion, but Jesus was innocent and they were condemned Him! How impartial they were, David was their hero and Jesus was not.

C. The lessons from these examples:

1. Generally speaking, our problem is not the lack or limited scripture knowledge; the problem is not putting in practice what we know even if is limited.
2. It is understandable, they are some passages in the Bible which are hard to understand, but consequently those are not the passages who affect our lives directly in our daily living! Our problem is not carrying out the clear teachings of Jesus in the Bible in our lives!
3. Nevertheless, that is the reason for the so many doctrinal errors we face today, because people are not reading and studying the Bible. Even today some who claim to be Christian are ignorant to the Biblical solutions for the vast modern problems of today, the question “**Have you not read?**”

III. NOT ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSED OPTIONS

A. At times Jesus was offered several options by which He may answer by the one making the question

1. We could almost consider these to be the case of multiple choice question, but we will notice that Jesus did not answer with none of the choices given to Him!

B. Some examples:

1. (**Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:22-25; Matt. 22:17-22**) – Some of the Pharisees and Herodians: “Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?”
 - a. Jesus’ response: vs. 17 – “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”
 - 1) The Pharisees and the Herodians had proposed only two options:
 - (a) Pay a poll-tax to Caesar
 - (b) Or not to pay a poll-tax to Caesar
 - 2) Jesus added a third option, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” Yes to pay the tax to Caesar, but there was more to give to God what God deserves!
 - b. They were amazed by His response! (17b)
2. (**Mark 12:28-34; Matt. 22:34-40**) – “And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “**What commandment is the foremost of all?**”
 - a. Was it commandment number 1? Or was it commandment number 5 or 10? We would have answer with difficulty, even trying to choose one of the commandments. Jesus was not limited to the options given by the one making the question.
 - b. Jesus’ response in the verses **29-31 READ**
 - c. Jesus instead of limiting Himself to one of ten commandments written in stone tablets, Jesus mentions two because these two summarize the ten and everything that God has commanded.
3. (**Mark 12:18-17; Matt. 22:23-33**) – Some Sadducees: “In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.”
 - a. This is a multiple choice question, Jesus had seven options to choose from because each brother represented an option.
 - b. As we will see in the next section, main 4th main point that Jesus did not answer with none of the options given.

C. The lessons we learn from these:

1. In these examples Jesus teaches us and remember us that man has a limited understanding on things

IV. ACCORDING TO THE TRUE NECESSITY

A. In this section we will see that Jesus answered according to true need of man and not according to the question made. Jesus always pinpoint to the most important need of man, what he needed the most.

B. Some examples:

1. (**Mark 12:18-27; Matt. 22:23-33**) – Same question as the previous section, some Sadducees made a question to Jesus: “In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one’s wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.”
 - a. First of all, Jesus answers their question which is something strange in itself:
 - 1) (vs. 25) – “For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven”
 - 2) This is the response to the question stated by the Sadducees, and it was a response by Jesus not confined to the limits proposed by these who were making the question to Jesus. The Sadducees were looking for an answer within the seven choices given to Jesus, but Jesus says, none of them!

- b. Jesus then guides them to their true necessity to teach them about the resurrection, vs. **26** – “But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob?’” vs. **27** – “He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken”
2. (**Matthew 18:1-6**) – The disciples of Jesus: “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
 - a. Jesus, certainly did not mentioned a name, their question did not have any base or validity.
 - b. What they needed to hear was a lesson about humility, so Jesus responded in this way, **2** “And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, **3** and said, Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.**4** Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me”
 3. (**Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18; Matt. 19:22**) – The rich young ruler makes this question to Jesus: “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - a. We would have responded probably like this, “Good job, keep it up! Continue with your good deeds!” After all, this young man had kept all the commandments of God since his youth (vs. **19-20**).
 - b. To the contrary, Jesus said the following: “**One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**”

C. The lesson from these examples:

1. When Jesus responded like this, it should remind us that man often will make the wrong question
2. I often hear brethren say, “Oh I wish I was there when Jesus was here on earth so that I can recline at His feet and hear Him teach” Or, “It will give us a great joy to have Jesus present us a sermon”. Probably also we could be thinking, “If Jesus could also see how well the congregation is doing, how we are not like the rest of the denominations in this town, and how we struggle against the liberals...I am pretty sure Jesus will exult or praise us for our work!”
 - a. I am confident to say that if Jesus was here and had the opportunity to talk with Him, **He will tell us exactly what we need to hear!**
 - b. The following is the principal question, am I willing to make the necessary changes in my life, what about you? Or will I leave grieved after telling me Jesus what changes I need to make in my life, like so many did?

CONCLUSION:

A. Jesus the greatest teacher, in this study we also see His deity

1. No wonder many were marveled at His responses (Mark 12:17)
2. No wonder nobody dare to ask Him more questions (Mark 12:34)
3. With this, Jesus began to ask His own questions

B. Jesus has exhorted us!

1. Is my faith on Jesus based on my own consideration of the evidences provided by the Bible?
2. Will I be with the saved ones at the last day? Am I striving to enter the narrow door?
3. Does the kingdom of God reigns in my heart?
4. Am I faithful to my spouse?
5. Am I humble to enter in the kingdom of heaven?
6. Have I done everything to have eternal life? Or, Am I still lacking something, or is there something that is separating me from God and going to heaven?

C. We have learned to answer questions:

1. Let us not be just satisfied with answering questions with a quick, “yes” or “no” just trying to give a correct answer.
2. Let us not surrender ourselves to the temptation of just satisfying the curiosity of somebody else with our answer.
3. Let us respond trying to teach and actually letting the other person know what they actually need more...salvation

D. Peter was not able to give a response like Jesus did (Matt. 17:24-25), but at least he knew how to make the correct question, it is a question we all have make (Luke 12:41-46) READ

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