

**SEARCHING QUESTIONS**  
[Jkroberts\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com)  
June 18, 2017

Matthew 16:13-17

1. Jesus often asked questions of those He was interacting with.
2. For instance on one occasion He asked, "Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" Luke 6:46

NOTE: How a person answers that question is very important in light of Matt 7:21-23.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

3. After His resurrection Jesus appeared to some of the Apostles who had gone back to fishing, and asked Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these (other men)?" John 21:15

NOTE: When Jesus asked questions it was not for His illumination because He already knew the answer.

4. This morning I want us to think about how we would answer three questions Jesus asked of others.

**I. "But who do you say that I am?"**

A. Just before asking this question Jesus asked, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

B. The answers were impressive but wrong.

C. In reality what others say and think about Jesus has implications for them, but what we say and think about Jesus is the single most important thing about us.

D. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

NOTE: Before we go further we need to understand that it is possible to accept this reality without it having any impact on our lives. I can't remember a time in my life when I did not intellectually accept the idea that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and that He died for the sins of the world. However my intellectual belief had no practical impact on my life.

E. In His response to Peter's profession Jesus pronounced that he was a blessed man because what he said was based on a work that God had done in his life.

F. The New Birth is from above, from God, and no one can come to God on his or her own initiative, although a response is required on our part to God's redemptive activity in our lives.

**1. John 1:9-13**

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did

not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 **who were born (begotten), not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

2. John 3:1-3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (from above) he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

**II. "What do you want Me to do for you?" Luke 18:35-43**

A. This question was addressed to a blind man who, on hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."

B. Though some tried to discourage him he kept crying out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me."

**NOTE: His prayer was intense, but it was not specific.**

C. Jesus stopped and ordered that the blind man be brought to Him, at which time Jesus asked, "What (specifically) do you want Me to do for you?"

D. What is it that you want Jesus to do for you and for others?

E. Do you pray specifically or in generalities?

F. To be effective in prayer we need to be in earnest, desiring the will of God, and focused. Matt 7:7-11

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

G. When the blind man answered, "Lord, I want to regain my sight!" Jesus responded, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well (saved you)."

**III. "Do you wish to get well?" John 5:1-9**

A. The pool of Bethesda was apparently fed by an intermittent spring, and people believed that it had healing power.

B. It had five porticoes or covered colonnades under which lay a multitude of people suffering from various physical ailments and limitations.

C. Jesus took notice of a man who had been ill for thirty-eight years, and asked him, "Do you wish to get well?"

D. The man replied that he was helpless and had no one to help him.

NOTE: We do not know what this man's problem was, but it had something to do with sin. 14

E. Jesus' response was simple and straight forward, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk."

F. We are told that the man was instantly made well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk.

NOTE: The lesson here is that not everyone wants to be well, but those who want to be can be, and will be, if they will obey the Lord. This does not necessarily mean that our circumstances change, but it does mean we will be enabled to live victoriously regardless of what we are facing or dealing with.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Do you view Jesus as a cure-all for life's hurts and selfish needs, or have you come to see Him as God's anointed Savior and Lord through the direct intervention of God the Father in your life?
2. Have you genuinely repented towards God by acknowledging and turning from your sin and rebellion?
3. Was there a specific time and place when and where you were born again, born from above?
4. What about your prayer life? What specific things do you want Jesus to do in your life and in the lives of those around you?
5. Are you content to remain where you are, complaining about life and making excuses, or do you want to walk with Jesus in the abundant life He came to make possible?