

Daily Devotionals, for the Week of October 15th – “Asking the wrong questions”

Tackle one a day, or look at them as a group!

Questions we ask:

- 1. I really want to do something that some might consider “questionable” by Biblical standards. How close can I get before it is considered ‘sin’?**

Before reading the passage, what do you think the problem with the question might be?

READ: Genesis 13: 5 – 13

Lot made a choice to “camp near sin”. Why did he do it?

READ: Genesis 14: 8 – 16

What was the cost to him?

We often hear the metaphor “as close to the fire as we can, without getting burned.” What is the problem with living this way?

If you had a close friend or a child who asked you the same question, what would you say in response?

Can you think of any other scriptures that pertain to this issue?

How might this question be “the wrong kind of question?”

2. I love this person, but they're driving me completely crazy. How much do I have to endure?

OR

3. I've already forgiven this person a bunch of times. They're obviously not sorry, so why should I forgive them again?

Why do we feel like forgiveness "costs" us something?

READ: Matt. 18:21 – 35

Peter came up to Jesus, and tried to look spiritual by asking if he should forgive his brother seven times. Was Jesus impressed with his answer?

Why should we be willing to forgive?

What does forgiveness indicate in our own hearts?

How do we know if we've truly forgiven another person?

What does it cost us NOT to forgive?

- In the immediate moment?

- In the long term?

How might this question be "the wrong kind of question?"

4. I'm trying as hard as I can. Why do difficult things keep happening to me?

This is basically the "Why me?" question, and it can apply to anything happening to us that we don't think we "deserve."

That perspective presupposes that we don't deserve for anything bad to happen to us. Can you think of a flaw in the presupposition?

READ Job 1: 1 – 12

Job was a pretty solid guy in God's book. Why do you think God would allow Satan to test him?

Was such testing fair to Job?

How do you think you stack up to Job?

Do you think that kind of testing would be fair to you?

Let jump the end of the story: READ Job 42: 7 – 16

What does the end of the story tell us about God's character?

What other conclusions can be drawn with the way the story ends?

How might this question be "the wrong kind of question?"

5. Why doesn't God let me be: wealthy, famous, or powerful, so I can help the church?

This is basically the "Why NOT me?" question, and it can apply to anything that is NOT happening to us that we think we DO "deserve."

However, this might be one of the easier ones to see through. If your friend or child asked you this question, how would you respond?

At the same time, in what subtle ways do we behave like this every day?

READ: Luke 16:10 – 15

This is part of the parable of the "shrewd manager." What can be concluded about worldly wealth here?

How would that compare with power?

How would that compare with fame?

What does the part of the question "...so I can help the church" imply about motive?

How might this question be "the wrong kind of question?"

Are you starting to see a pattern develop?

6. Sharing my faith is terrifying to me. Do I have to do it to demonstrate I'm saved?

Let's approach this one from the opposite direction. How might this question be "the wrong kind of question?"

What are the potential lies (2) hidden in the question?

Can you think of any scriptures that would counter those lies?

Read 1 Thess. 2: 1 – 8

How does that scripture counter the "enemy thought" (lie) that sharing our faith is terrifying?

Overall, the problem with most of these kinds of questions is very simple. They are all about us. Our comfort, our desire for status or power, our pain, our dissatisfaction, or even our desire to do what we want...even when we know we shouldn't.

What is the antidote to this situation?

What are some questions that you ask...that are the wrong kind of questions?

1.

2.

3.