

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE Silly Questions From Jesus

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Luke 18; John 5; Matthew 9

SYNOPSIS What seems like silly questions from Jesus actually make a point for us to think about.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Silly Questions From Jesus

Have you ever been asked a silly question? I suppose we all have – mostly by our kids or grandkids. I know I asked some silly questions when I was a kid, like the time I asked my dad if he was older than his dad. I remember when Jake was a just a little kid and we were teasing him about girls. At one point we asked him if he was going to get married someday. You could tell he was thinking it over and then he cocked his head and asked, “would I have to kiss her?” I think he answered that question for himself eventually. Here’s some more silly questions people have asked:

What color is a chameleon?

Why is it called the Afterlife when it’s really Afterdeath?

Why is it called Afterdark when it’s really Afterlight?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

Why do 24/7 stores have locks on the doors?

Why do Superheroes wear tights?

If humans evolved from apes, why do we still have apes?

Why do Psychics ask for a name before talking to people?

Why do people say they “slept like a baby” when babies often wake up like every two hours?

If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables. What is baby oil made from?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

There’s a lot of silly questions out there – fun questions. We get them all the time. But have you ever noticed the silly questions Jesus asked? I want to talk about three of them this morning. Listen to the first silly question Jesus asked.

☞ Luke 18:35-43

35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38 He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. 42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." 43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

1. ☞ “What do you want me to do for you?”



What a silly question to ask a blind man! Anyone could pretty much guess what a blind person would want. Why would Jesus ask a dumb question like that? I think He had good reason. Clearly, it wasn't because he didn't know. After all, he was the Son of God and had insight into ☞ all things. I think he wanted him to **get specific** about what he wanted.

Did you hear about the lady who called the fire department to report a fire? The fireman was sitting by the phone when it rang. He picked it up and said, "Fire department!" The woman on the other end said, "SEND A FIRE TRUCK QUICK!" and hung up. He waited, not sure what to do, and the phone rang again. He picked it up, said "Fire department." The woman said, "SEND A FIRE TRUCK NOW!!" Then she hung up. He waited, and this time he was ready. The phone rang, and he picked it up and said, "Where's the fire?" The woman said, "It's in the kitchen!" and hung up!

Sometimes we don't get specific about what we want from the Lord and maybe we limit the miracles we receive simply because we don't tell the Lord exactly what we need.

Notice that when Jesus asked this man what he wanted, the man didn't say, "Well, Lord... I just really need your help. I have an unspoken request. You know my heart, and uh... I just need your guidance with my situation."

Do you have a problem? Something you've wrestled with for a long time, and never been able to conquer? Do you have a situation that you can't handle? Will nothing short of a miracle be the cure and take care of the situation? Then I suggest you do two things:

1. Tell God exactly what the problem is.
2. Tell God exactly what you need done about it.

I know someone who struggled for a long time to stop the smoking habit. He knew it wasn't good for him. He knew he was injuring the temple of the Holy Spirit. He knew God didn't want him to do this and he tried to quit many times. But he never made it past a few days. It wasn't until he really admitted that he had a problem he couldn't deal with, that he began to get victory over that habit.

Here's the lesson. Sometimes we put our trust in a patch or a program or in our own efforts – ☞ instead of God. **Miracles happen when we admit we have a problem.** We need to realize and admit to ourselves and to God that we can't handle it on our own. God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

We need to confess our inadequacy to God and go to Him for help. When we do that we open the door and let God in. We unleash the power of God. We need to confess our weakness and go to Him for a miracle. The Lord asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Let's take a look at the next silly question Jesus asked. It's found in John 5.

☞ **John 5:1-9**



Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." 8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

2. ☞ "Do you want to be healed?"

Isn't that a silly question to ask a sick person? I think the man's response is revealing. Instead of a direct answer to Jesus, the man gave an excuse: he didn't have anyone to help him. Now, that is a sad situation; he really could have used the help. But, we don't know why he was on his own. Perhaps he never asked for help. Someone always got in the pool before him, but why? Did he give up too easily? We don't know. But you have to wonder.

In this particular case, it seems the Lord wanted the man to make an effort, to make a choice. Sometimes, the things that we struggle with are never solved because we don't ask for help, or we don't make an effort, or we don't choose to do something about it.

☞ **You need to make a choice.** Weigh the outcome and choose. In this case, if the man was healed, he would have to make a living for himself. He would have to **stop making excuses.**

Choice is a powerful thing! You know how powerful it is? Even though God wants you to go to heaven, he has given you the ability to choose to go to hell by not living in a right relationship with Him! "Do you want to be healed?" "Do you want to go to heaven?" Seems like silly questions. But God has given you the choice. You determine where you will spend eternity.

Jesus died for the sins of the whole, entire world – past, present and future. But He made it clear that only a few will make it. The road to hell is broad and easy to travel and many are on it. They are on it for one of two reasons: one, they reject Christ and His gift of eternal life, or two, they did nothing about it.

Maybe they meant to accept that free gift of eternal life someday – but just never got around to it. Eternal life is a choice. The Word of God says "All who call on the Name of the Lord will be saved." You have to call. You have to invite Him in. You have to choose to go to heaven. "Do you want to be healed?" What's your choice? What do you really want?

Here's the next silly question Jesus asked. Matthew records it.

☞ **Matthew 9:27-30**

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do



you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; 30 and their sight was restored.

3. ☞ **"Do you believe that I am able?"**

That's a silly question! They wouldn't have followed him if they hadn't believed! What was it He wanted from them? I think he wanted them to check their own hearts and verbalize their faith in him!

Jesus already knew that they believed – he just wanted them to say it out loud! He wanted them to admit it, because there's something about sharing out loud that you believe. The bible says a lot about our words...

☞ **Proverbs 18:21**

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

With our words we can encourage or we can discourage. We can proclaim truth or express lies. Words matter.

Proverbs 15:4 has a similar thought:

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Words matter, and the Lord is paying attention to what we say.

Matthew 12:36-37

I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

Words matter. We will be judged not just by what we do, but by what we say. Our words have the power to save us or condemn us.

Romans 10:9-10

if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Words matter. We understand that belief is key, but here, belief and words are connected. **You ☞ need to say what you believe.** There's something powerful about speaking truth out loud.

James 5:16

confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.



Sometimes, to really be healed and delivered from a problem, you have to say it out loud to someone else. God can deliver you, but you may need help to stay delivered. There's power in accountability. So, you need to say it out loud.

If something has you in bondage, you need to admit it. Verbalize it! Tell someone about it. Have them pray with you. Words matter. Do you believe he is able? Say so.

Well, Jesus does ask some pretty silly questions, doesn't He? Jesus still asks the same three questions of you today:

- 1 What do you want me to do? It's a question of honesty and admitting your problem.
- 2 Do you want to be healed? It's a question of your choice! What do you *really* want?
- 3 Do you believe that I'm able to do this? It's a question of speaking your faith!

Is there something in your life you would like Jesus to do for you today? Do you *really* want it? Do you *really* have the faith that Jesus can do this for you today? If you answered "yes" to those questions – you could see a miracle happen in your life.

You simply need to pray a prayer like this:

**☞Dear Jesus,
I really need your help today. I need _____.
I admit it. I confess it to you. I really want you to deliver me. I believe your strength is made perfect in my weakness. I believe you have the power to do this for me. Please help me right now. Please forgive me. Please heal me. Please deliver me...**

Be specific; make a choice; verbalize your need.