

Sermon Guide: “Jesus Questions” Wayne Elderton | Dec. 31

In this New Year’s message, Wayne Elderton explores the impact of three questions posed by Jesus. Asking questions can be an effective catalyst for self-reflection and spiritual growth, and are more effective for learning than merely communicating information. Wayne also underscores the importance of questions in the context of the New Year, a time traditionally reserved for reflection and resolution.

The first question discussed is from Matthew 8:24-27, where Jesus, amidst a storm, asks his disciples “Why are you afraid?” This question addresses the common human experience of fear and anxiety, which Wayne relates to the current mental health crisis. Wayne notes that Jesus’ use of questions aims to foster self-awareness and growth rather than simply providing answers.

The second question, “Who touched my clothes?” from the story of the woman with the issue of blood, delves into themes of shame, secrecy, and the courage to seek healing. Wayne reflects on the societal and personal implications of hidden struggles and the transformative power of faith and vulnerability in reaching out to Jesus.

The third question, “How many loaves do you have?” from the feeding of the 4,000, explores the concept of engagement in God’s work. In addressing this question to his disciples, Jesus invites his followers to contribute what little they have and witness it being multiplied. Wayne encourages listeners to reflect on these questions and their significance, inviting hearers to enter the new year with a mindset of self-examination and openness to the transformative power of Jesus’ questions.

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus’ questions are designed to provoke deep introspection and are as relevant today as they were in biblical times. They challenge us to examine our faith, confront our fears, and consider our role in God’s work. Reflecting on these questions can lead to personal growth and a deeper understanding of our relationship with God. [\[25:54\]](#)
- Fear and faith are often at odds in our lives, and Jesus’ question about fear during the storm on the lake serves as a reminder to focus on Him rather than our circumstances. This focus can shift our perspective from fear to faith, leading to peace that transcends worldly assurances. [\[07:58\]](#)
- The story of the woman who touched Jesus’ cloak teaches us about the courage to seek healing despite societal and personal shame. It challenges us to bring our hidden struggles into the light of Jesus’ love and to trust in His power to restore us. [\[16:42\]](#)

- The feeding of the 4,000 illustrates the principle of participation in God's kingdom. Jesus' question about the loaves invites us to offer our resources, no matter how inadequate they may seem, trusting that He will multiply our efforts and use them for His purposes. [24:03]

Discussion Questions

1. In Matthew 8:26, what is the correlation between faith and fear as demonstrated by the disciples' reaction to the storm?
2. In the incident of the woman with the issue of blood, what might be the implications of Jesus acknowledging her touch amidst a crowd, and how does this challenge our understanding of personal struggles and faith?
3. How does the feeding of the 4,000 with limited resources speak to the concept of faith and the role of human participation in the works of God?

Going Deeper

1. Recall a recent situation where you felt overwhelmed by fear or anxiety. What specific step can you take to shift your focus from the circumstances to trusting in God's peace as described in John 14:27?
2. Identify a personal struggle or area of shame you've kept hidden. What is one tangible action you can take this week to bring it into the light and seek healing, drawing inspiration from the courage of the woman in Mark 5:30?
3. Consider a community need you are aware of. What is one specific way you can contribute to addressing this need, even if your contribution seems as small as the loaves and fish in Matthew 15:34?