

Christ Community Church  
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### "Who Are You Looking For?"

John 1:35-38 The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them. (NLT)

Repeatedly throughout the gospels, Jesus initiates the conversation with a question. The answer to the question seems patently obvious. Since Jesus clearly isn't in need of information, why does He ask the question?

Many Christians are driven to the Lord for the answer to a question. Are you in search of an answer? The internet has changed our attitude about information.

The reality is answers don't satisfy the deepest longing of the heart. Answers don't produce transformation.

Often the Lord will avoid giving the answer because He is looking for something deeper, something more significant, something more eternal as an outcome.

John 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the **food which endures to eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." (NASB)

The questions the Lord asks are often designed to move us from the thing we're looking for (or we **think** we're looking for) to the thing He is after.

#### 1. Mary at the Tomb: John 20:11-18

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.

"Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.

"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him.

"Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener.

"Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

"Mary!" Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message. (NLT)

Jesus, without revealing himself, asks, "Why are you crying?" He knows why.

Mary is looking for a dead body – "Where did you put him?"

Jesus wants to shift her focus from the past to the future, from disappointment to opportunity, and fundamentally change the way she sees and lives life.

## 2. Job: Job 42:1-6

Introduce the story

Job did not have the benefit of seeing the conversation between God and Satan. He was left to grapple with why all these things were happening to him.

Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I – and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.' I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance." (NLT)

After a series of conversations in which Job demands that God answer his questions, God shows up and begins to question Job. God resists Job's questioning, in order to bring Job into a face to face encounter with him. Once Job sees God with his own eyes, all the questions fade into insignificance.

## 3. Abram and the promise: Genesis 15:1-6

Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.

You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. (NLT)

It would be at least another 14 to 15 years before Isaac would be born.

#### 4. The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-32

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.

Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." (NLT)