

The Two Most Important Questions

Acts 9:1-6

9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Introduction: Billy walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Billy said: 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat.

Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Billy what he had.. Billy said, 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told Billy to wait in the examining room.

A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Billy what he had. Billy said, 'Shingles..' So the nurse gave Billy a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, and told Billy to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor.

An hour later the doctor came in and found Billy sitting patiently and asked Billy what he had. Billy said, 'Shingles.' The doctor asked, 'Where?' Billy said, 'Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload 'em??'

In order to get the right answers in life you have to first ask the right questions.

It has been said that the genius of Albert Einstein was his ability to ask the right questions about the universe which in turn formed all his theories about the make up of the universe.

St. Paul on the road to Damacus also knew how to ask the right questions:

"He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

'Who are you Lord?'

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what to do.'"

Out of these verses emerges the **two most important questions** in the entire universe.

The first: *Who are your Lord?*

The second is implied: *What would you have me do Lord?*

Failure to ask and answer these two questions has eternal consequences.

But for those who do ask and respond-into their lives comes the love, power, and purpose of Jesus Christ.

I. The First Question vs. 5 "Who Are you Lord?"

STORY OF A CHURCH WHERE SATAN MADE A VISIT ONE MORNING:

Everyone panicked and ran out as the devil walked down the aisle.

The pastor dropped the communion as he ran out of the sanctuary.

Only one elderly man remained in the front row.

The devil walked up to this man and breathing fire said: “Do you know who I am?”

“Yes,” said the old man, “You’re the devil himself.”

“Do you know what I can do to you?” said the devil.

“Yup.” Was the man’s reply.

“Then why aren’t you afraid and running like everyone else?”

The old man paused, look at the devil and said, “Forty years ago I Married your sister.”

IN ORDER TO GET THE RIGHT ANSWERS YOU HAVE TO FIRST ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.

A. Philosophers have struggled for centuries with the greatest questions of the universe:

- 1. What is our purpose?**
- 2. Why is mankind unique?**
- 3. Are we alone in the universe?**
- 4. Why is there pain, sorrow, and death?**
- 5. What happens when one dies?**

B. As profound as these questions are-they are secondary questions.

1. The primary question we must all ask is the one Saul asked on the road to Damascus when struck down by the bright light.
2. Jesus said: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

3. Saul's question: "Who are you Lord?"
4. It was not so much a question of identification!
5. It was a question of **AWE** in the light of overwhelming power.

This is truly the first and primary question we must all ask.

- C. One of the basic problems about people is that we are quick to make snap judgments based on limited information.

Permit me to give you an example: Father & Daughter
"Daddy, where did I come from?" the eight-year-old asked.

It was a moment for which her parents had carefully prepared. Mom & Dad took her into the living room, got out a complete medical book, and explained all they thought she should know about sexual attraction, affection, love, and reproductions.

Then they both sat back and smiled contently.

"Does that answer your question?" her father asked.

"Not really," the little wide eyed girl said. "Marcia said she came from Detroit. I want to know where I came from."

3. Most of our judgments about Jesus are not based on getting at the facts or asking the right questions.
4. Most of our opinion is based on hearsay or rumor or TV.
5. When it comes to Christianity most opinions are formed in the exactly the same way.

The end result is a Jesus who is often the creation of our imagination, superstition, or fears rather than the living Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Since I am a man I will speak from a man's perspective .

It is startling to realize that most men's image of Jesus is not based on the Bible but on Art.

7. Jesus is portrayed as an anemic, often effeminate wimp in many painting.

D. It is a shame because the the real Jesus is quite different!



1. Note for a moment the names the Bible gives to Jesus.

- a. **Lord & Master**
- b. **Messiah-Anointed One**
- c. **King of Glory**
- d. **Immanuel**
- e. **Prince of Peace**
- f. **Cornerstone**
- g. **Rock of Israel**
- h. **Son of God**
- i. **The Word**
- j. **Light of the world**
- k. **Bread of Life**
- l. **Good Shepherd**
- m. **Resurrection and the Life**
- n. **Author of Life**
- o. **Righteous Judge**
- p. **Alpha & Omega**
- q. **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**
- r. **Lion of the Tribe of Judah.**

2. Are these the names of some anemic, weak or whimpy character?

NO!

3. Is this someone we might ignore if he came into the room? **NO!**

If Jesus appeared in this room today we would no more ignore him than we would ignore a 600 lion.

4. These are powerful names and titles.



Notice the names and titles of Jesus on the wall.

Eventually all 110 names and titles will be visible.

5. These names represent his unlimited power and authority!

6. So powerful is Jesus Christ that the Bible says no one can stand in his presence-every knee will bow on the day of his second appearance.

7. There will be no slick lawyers to manipulate the heavenly courtroom and circumvent justice.

8. No one will be able to plead the 5th amendment.

9. On that great and dreadful day-every person that has ever lived will stand before Jesus. This includes you, me, all the Presidents and kings that have ever lived.

10. On that day we will either know Jesus as our Lord and Savior or we will meet him as our eternal judge.

That day is so overwhelming the Bible has strong words for those who refuse the gracious offer in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Another translation puts it this way: *It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

11. So powerful and so everlasting is Jesus that we, like Saul, need to get on our knees right now in awe and ask: "Who are you Lord?"
12. That doesn't mean that we merely recite the Apostle's creed or give the right answer!
13. It means that we are radically affected spiritually, emotionally, and physically by this Jesus just like Tom Vanderpoel was dramatically affected by Jesus as he was dying.
14. It means that the entire direction of our lives is to come into alignment with Jesus Christ.

We desire to know him and pursue him more than anything else in life.

Here is the second part to the question: "Who are you Lord?"
The second part is "Are you growing in your passion for Jesus
The longer you know him?"

Transition: When we internalize the first question with its only answer-that Jesus is God who commands our total loyalty, allegiance,

and reason for living...then we can asked the second most important question in the universe: "What would you have me do Lord?"

II. The Second Question: What would you have me do Lord?

A. This second great question is not written out in the text of Acts 9, it is implicitly implied in the context of the situation.

1. Vs. 6 Jesus says: *"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what to do."*
2. One of the greatest failures of evangelical Christianity in the past 50 years is that we have been content to let people make decisions for Jesus without informing them that **Jesus wants to make decisions for them.**
3. When we answer the first question: "Who are you Lord?," it the second question is inevitable-"What would you have me do?"
4. The basic problem the church in America has today is the problem of "who's in charge around here anyway?"
5. **Pastor Terry Fullum** tells the powerful story of a woman at one of his conferences who was paralyzed from the neck down.
 - a. She said that in her mind she could run, hop, make all kind of things with her hands.
 - b. The only problem-there was a breakdown between her brain and body.
 - c. Then she said: **"I am a living parable of the church."**
6. There in lies Jesus biggest problem.



- a. He is attached to a largely unresponsive body.
- b. A body that often wants to do it's own thing rather than ask him: "What would you have me do Lord?"

7. Consider your life for a moment

- a. Let's assume you have given your heart to Jesus as your Savior.
- b. When it comes to your job-how many of you asked Jesus if this job is what he wants you to do with your life?
- c. When it comes to how you spend your time-how many of us have asked the Lord what he wants us to do with the time he has given us?
- e. When it comes to our family, friends, and co-workers or students-how many of us are asking him about whom we are to share his love and story with others?
- f. When it comes to money-how many of us are seeking his mind on what things we buy and how we utilize his resources for the advancement of the kingdom?

8. I believe that there will be many people in heaven one day who turned out to be a big disappointment in the kingdom of God.

- a. What do I mean by that?
- b. They trusted in Jesus for salvation, but attempted to live life on their own.
- c. Jesus had designed them for great things-they squandered their lives on little things.

d. Instead of doing great things for the Lord's kingdom, they ended up attempting to build their own little kingdom.

e. Instead of listening to Jesus-they listened to the world and their own self-centeredness.

f. George Barna's book: Marketing the Church. page 21 ff

g. These are shocking facts-they are symptomatic of the fact that the second question is not being asked by the vast majority of Christians: What would you have me do Lord?

h. If we don't start asking that question we may as well padlock the doors and all go home-never to return.

SO HOW DO WE DO IT?

3 x 5 card: "Who are you Lord?" "What would you have me do?"

Computer screen popup or wallpaper? "Who are you Lord?"
"What would you have me do?"

Husbands and wives, when you go out for the evening to dinner
Ask these two questions of each other after you order your food:

Tell me honey, who is Jesus to you?

Tell me, what do you believe you are to be doing for him?

At all our church meetings we need to begin by asking:

- Who is Jesus to this church?
- Can we account for everything we do by human effort or do we see the miraculous movement of the Holy Spirit?

- What would Jesus have us do right now in this place and this Neighborhood to impact it for the kingdom of God?

When you pull out your checkbook or ATM card ask:

What would you have me do with this money for you Jesus?
How can I give to the kingdom of Jesus even after I die?

These are not one time questions but the questions we need to be asking and answering:

EVERYDAY OF OUR LIFE!

Conclusion: **Have you asked both of these questions recently?**

Question one: Who are you Lord?

Question Two: What would you have me do Lord?

These are the two most important questions in the universe. How are you doing? What answers are in your heart this morning?

Yellow Card

I have settled the question, “Who are you Lord” and will publicly acknowledge that Jesus is the only Lord and Savior of the Universe.

I am still struggling to find out “what am I suppose to do?” I desire to discover my purpose and will commit to attending the next “Discover Your Purpose Class” at Hope.

I will print these two statements: “Who are your Lord” and “What would you have me do?” I will hang them on a wall at my home and for the next two week answer them both out loud to the best of my ability.

I'm going to lead in prayer and ask those two questions. I hope you will ask them as well.

Amen