

Questions Jesus Asked

Explanation

The teaching style of Jesus involved the use of many questions. Chart 9-16 classifies this vast collection of questions used for teaching, demonstration, and reproof. Jesus' questions were pedagogical, forensic, argumentative, and rhetorical. Unlike Socrates and Plato, who constructed long and elaborate dialogues asking question after question, Jesus mostly posed a single question to make an irrefutable point. His questions were penetrating and perceptive. They forced listeners to stop, think, evaluate, and act. This teaching style has much to offer to parents, teachers, and leaders today.

Questions Jesus Asked

MORALIZING, PARABLES, & TEACHING

If the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?

Mt 5:13; Mk 9:50; Lk 14:34

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Mt 5:46–47; Lk 6:32–34

Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mt 6:25

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Mt 6:27; Lk 12:25

If God so clothe the grass of the field, shall he not much more clothe you?

Mt 6:30; Lk 12:28

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Mt 7:3–4; Lk 6:41–42

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask?

Mt 7:9–11; Lk 11:11–13

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Mt 7:16

Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

Mt 9:5; Mk 2:8–9; Lk 5:22–23

Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?

Mt 9:15; Mk 2:19; Lk 5:34

If they be called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Mt 10:25

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?

Mt 10:29; Lk 12:6

And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out?

Mt 12:26–27; Mk 3:23; Lk 11:18–19

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?

Mt 12:29

Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

Mt 12:48; Mk 3:33

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mt 16:26; Mk 8:36–37; Lk 9:25

What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

Mt 17:25

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Mt 18:1

How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

Mt 18:12; Lk 15:4

Why callest thou me good?

Mt 19:17; Mk 10:18; Lk 18:19

The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?

Mt 21:25; Mk 11:30; Lk 20:4

When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

Mt 21:40

Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Mt 21:42

Whose is this image and superscription?

Mt 22:20; Mk 12:16; Lk 20:24

But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

Mt 22:31–32; Mk 12:26

How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

Mt 22:44–45; Mk 12:35–37; Lk 20:41, 43

See ye not all these things?

Mt 24:2

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Mt 24:45

Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

Mk 4:13

Is a candlestick brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

Mk 4:21

Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

Mk 4:30; Lk 13:18, 20

Seest thou these great buildings?

Mk 13:2

Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Lk 6:39

Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Lk 7:42

Seest thou this woman?

Lk 7:44

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

Lk 10:36

Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

Lk 11:5–6

Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?

Lk 11:40

Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Lk 12:42

I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

Lk 12:49

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth?

Lk 12: 51

Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?... Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

Lk 13:2, 4

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Lk 14:28

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Lk 14:31

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Lk 15:8

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Lk 16:11-12

But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him?

Lk 17:7-9

And shall God not avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Lk 18:7-8

Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

Lk 19:23

What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Lk 20:17

For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat?

Lk 22:27

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Lk 23:31

Have ye here any meat?

Lk 24:41; Jn 21:5

Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Jn 3:10

Are there not twelve hours in the day?

Jn 11:9

Know ye what I have done to you?

Jn 13:12

Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

Jn 16:19

Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Jn 18:11

Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

Jn 18:34

SABBATH & LEGAL

Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungered, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

Mt 12:34; Mk 2:25–26; Lk 6:3–4

Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

Mt 12:5

What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep?

Mt 12:11–12; Lk 14:3, 5

Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

Mt 15:16–17; Mk 7:18–19

Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh?

Mt 19:4–5

Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me?

Mt 26:53–54; Mk 14:48; Lk 22:52

Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?

Mk 3:4

What did Moses command you?

Mk 10:3

What is written in the law? how readest thou?

Lk 10:26

Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

Jn 7:19

Are ye angry at me because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

Jn 7:23

Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

Jn 8:10

Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

Jn 10:34

Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?

Mk 11:17

Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

Lk 6:9; 14:3

Thou hypocrite, doth not each of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

Lk 13:15–16

CRITICIZING & VIPERS

What went ye out in the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?... A man clothed in soft raiment?... A prophet?

Mt 11:7–9; Lk 7:24–26

But whereunto shall I liken this generation?

Mt 11:16; Lk 7:31

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?

Mt 12:34

Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Mt 14:3

O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Mt 16:3; Lk 12:56

O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?

Mt 17:17; Mk 9:19; Lk 9:41

Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Mt 21:16

Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Mt 22:18; Lk 20:23

Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Mt 23:17

Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

Mt 23:19

Ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Mt 23:33

Why doth this generation seek after a sign?

Mk 8:12

How is it that ye have sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Lk 2:49

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Lk 6:46

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Jn 3:12

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Jn 5:44

Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Jn 6:61–62

Why do ye not understand my speech?

Jn 8:43

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

Jn 8:46

Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

Jn 10:32

Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

Jn 10:36

If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

Jn 18:23

MIRACLES

Believe ye that I am able to do this?

Mt 9:28

How many loaves have ye?

Mt 15:34; Mk 6:38; 8:5

What will ye that I shall do unto you?

Mt 20:32; Mk 10:36; 10:51; Lk 18:41

Why trouble ye this woman?

Mt 26:10; Mk 14:6

What is thy name?

Mk 5:9; Lk 8:30

Who touched my clothes?

Mk 5:30; Lk 8:45

Why make ye this ado, and weep?

Mk 5:39

Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?... And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?... How is it that ye do not understand?
Mk 8:17–21

What question ye with them?
Mk 9:16

How long is it ago since this came unto him?
Mk 9:21

Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?
Lk 7:17

Woman, what have I do to with thee?
Jn 2:4

Wilt thou be made whole?
Jn 5:6

Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?
Jn 6:5

Where have ye laid him?
Jn 11:34

Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?
Jn 11:40

Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?
Jn 20:15

If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?
Jn 21:23

INTERROGATION OF DISCIPLES' FAITH

Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?
Mt 8:26

Have ye understood all these things?
Mt 13:51

O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
Mt 14:31; Mk 4:40

O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many loaves ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?
Mt 16:8–11

Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
Mt 16:13; Mk 8:27; Lk 9:18

But whom say ye that I am?
Mt 16:15; Mk 8:29; Lk 9:20

Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?
Mt 20:22

What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?
Mt 22:42

What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
Mt 26:40; Mk 14:37

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?
Mt 26:53–54; Mk 14:48; Lk 22:52

What was it ye disputed among yourselves
by the way?
Mk 9:33

Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of
the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with
the baptism that I am baptized?
Mk 10:39

Where is your faith?
Lk 8:25

When I sent you without purse, scrip, and
shoes, lacked ye anything?
Lk 22:35

Why sleep ye?
Lk 22:46

Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a
kiss?
Lk 22:48

What manner of communications are these
that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and
are sad?
Lk 24:17

What things?
Lk 24:19

Ought not Christ to have suffered these
things, and to enter into his glory?
Lk 24:26

Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts
arise in your hearts?
Lk 24:38

What seek ye?
Jn 1:38

Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under
the fig tree, believest thou?
Jn 1:50

But if ye believe not his writings, how shall
ye believe my words?
Jn 5:47

Will ye also go away?
Jn 6:67

Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of
you is a devil?
Jn 6:70

Dost thou believe on the Son of God?
Jn 9:35

Believest thou this?
Jn 11:26

Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake?
Jn 13:38

Have I been so long time with you, and yet
hast thou not known me, Philip? he that
hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how
sayest thou that, Shew us the Father?
Believest thou not that I am in the Father,
and the Father in me?
Jn 14:9–10

Do ye now believe?
Jn 16:31

Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more
than these?... Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou
me?... Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?
Jn 21:15–17

MISCELLANEOUS

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken
me?
Mt 27:46

Whom seek ye?
Jn 18:7

Why asketh thou me?
Jn 18:21
