

Questions Asked of Jesus

Explanation

Just as Jesus asked many questions of other people, his friends and foes are frequently shown asking questions of him. Chart 9-17 lists the questions and groups them on a spectrum that ranges from faithful and helpful questions to argumentative and hostile questions. As is shown on the last page of this chart, ninety-four questions were asked, spread fairly evenly over the spectrum. The questions asked by the disciples are supportive and constructive; the questions asked by the people in general are fairly neutral; the questions asked by the Jews who opposed Jesus are mainly polemical. Much is revealed by the words that come from a person's own mouth.

Questions Asked of Jesus

Asked by Disciples

ASKED BY GENERAL DISCIPLES

Why speakest thou unto them in parables? Mt 13:10

Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? Mt 15:12

Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? Mt 15:33; Mk 8:4

Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? Mt 17:10; Mk 9:11

Why could not we cast him out? Mt 17:19; Mk 9:28

Who then can be saved? Mt 19:25; Mk 10:26; Lk 18:26

Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Mt 24:3; Mk 13:4

To what purpose is this waste? Mt 26:8; Mk 14:4

Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? Mt 26:17; Mk 14:12; Lk 22:9

Master, carest thou not that we perish? Mk 4:38

Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched my clothes? Mk 5:31; Lk 8:45

Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? Mk 6:37

What might this parable be? Lk 8:9

Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? Lk 21:7

Lord, shall we smite with the sword? Lk 22:49

Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jn 9:2

Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jn 11:8

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
Why speakest thou unto them in parables? Mt 13:10	X							
Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? Mt 15:12			X					
Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? Mt 15:33; Mk 8:4		X						
Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? Mt 17:10; Mk 9:11	X							
Why could not we cast him out? Mt 17:19; Mk 9:28	X							
Who then can be saved? Mt 19:25; Mk 10:26; Lk 18:26	X							
Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Mt 24:3; Mk 13:4	X							
To what purpose is this waste? Mt 26:8; Mk 14:4	X							
Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? Mt 26:17; Mk 14:12; Lk 22:9	X							
Master, carest thou not that we perish? Mk 4:38			X					
Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched my clothes? Mk 5:31; Lk 8:45		X		X				
Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? Mk 6:37	X							
What might this parable be? Lk 8:9	X							
Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? Lk 21:7	X							
Lord, shall we smite with the sword? Lk 22:49	X							
Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jn 9:2	X							
Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jn 11:8	X							

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
<u>ASKED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST</u> I have need to be baptized of thee, and thou comest to me? Mt 3:14	X							
<u>ASKED BY DISCIPLES OF JOHN</u> Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? Mt 9:14; Mk 2:18; Lk 5:33		X						
Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Mt 11:3; Lk 7:19, 20		X						
<u>ASKED BY JAMES AND JOHN</u> Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? Lk 9:54	X							
<u>ASKED BY SIMON PETER</u> Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Mt 18:21	X							
Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? Mt 19:27	X							
Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? Lk 12:41		X						
Lord, to whom shall we go? Jn 6:68	X	X						
Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jn 13:6	X		X					
Lord, who is it? Jn 13:25		X						
Lord, whither goest thou? Jn 13:36		X						
Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? Jn 13:37		X						
Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Jn 21:20		X						
Lord, and what shall this man do? Jn 21:21		X						
<u>ASKED BY TWELVE APOSTLES</u> Lord, is it I? Mt 26:22; Mk 14:19		X	X					
<u>ASKED BY NATHANAEL</u> Whence knowest thou me? Jn 1:48		X	X					

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
<u>ASKED BY ANDREW</u> There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? Jn 6:9		X						
<u>ASKED BY THOMAS</u> Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jn 14:5		X						
<u>ASKED BY JUDAS (NOT ISCARIOT)</u> Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jn 14:22		X						
<u>ASKED BY NICODEMUS</u> How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jn 3:4		X						
How can these things be? Jn 3:9		X	X					
<u>ASKED BY MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS</u> Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Lk 2:48				X				
<u>ASKED BY MARTHA</u> Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Lk 10:40		X	X					
<u>ASKED BY A WOMAN OF SAMARIA</u> Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Jn 4:11		X						
Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jn 4:12		X						
<u>ASKED BY A YOUNG MAN</u> Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? Mt 19:16; Mk 10:17; Lk 10:25; 18:18	X	X						
All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Mt 19:20		X						
<u>ASKED BY MAN CURED OF BLINDNESS</u> Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? Jn 9:36	X	X						

Asked by the People

ASKED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Is not this the son of David? Mt 12:23

Lord, are there few that be saved? Lk 13:23

Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jn 6:25

What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?
Jn 6:28

What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Jn 6:30

We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? Jn 12:34

ASKED BY PEOPLE OF JESUS' OWN COUNTRY

Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? and his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? Mt 13:54-56; Mk 6:2-3; Lk 4:22

ASKED BY ALL IN CITY OF JERUSALEM

Who is this? Mt 21:10

ASKED BY SOLDIERS/OFFICERS HOLDING JESUS CAPTIVE

Prophecy, who is it that smote thee? Lk 22:64

Answerest thou the High Priest so? Jn 18:22

ASKED BY PONTIUS PILATE

Art thou the King of the Jews?
Mt 27:11; Mk 15:2; Lk 23:3; Jn 18:33

Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee?
Mt 27:13

Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jn 18:35

Art thou a king then? Jn 18:37

Whence art thou? Jn 19:9

Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?
Jn 19:10

Faithful
Seeking
Marvelling
Worried
Rhetorical
Argumentative
Polemical
Hostile

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
Is not this the son of David? Mt 12:23	X	X	X					
Lord, are there few that be saved? Lk 13:23		X						
Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jn 6:25		X						
What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jn 6:28	X							
What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Jn 6:30		X						
We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? Jn 12:34		X						
Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? and his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? Mt 13:54-56; Mk 6:2-3; Lk 4:22					X	X	X	
Who is this? Mt 21:10		X						
Prophecy, who is it that smote thee? Lk 22:64								X
Answerest thou the High Priest so? Jn 18:22					X			X
Art thou the King of the Jews? Mt 27:11; Mk 15:2; Lk 23:3; Jn 18:33		X						
Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee? Mt 27:13		X						
Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jn 18:35					X	X		
Art thou a king then? Jn 18:37		X						
Whence art thou? Jn 19:9		X						
Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jn 19:10					X	X		

ASKED BY DEVILS

What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?
Mt 8:29; Mk 1:24; 5:7; Lk 4:34; 8:28

Asked by the Jews

ASKED BY PHARISEES

Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? Mt 12:10

Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?
Mt 19:3; Mk 10:2

Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? Mt 19:7

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? Mt 22:17; Mk 12:14–15; Lk 20:22

Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?
Mt 22:36; Mk 12:28

Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? Lk 6:2

What shall I do to inherit eternal life? Lk 10:25

And who is my neighbour? Lk 10:29

Where, Lord? Lk 17:37

Where is thy Father? Jn 8:19

Are we blind also? Jn 9:40

ASKED BY SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?
Mt 15:2

Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? Mk 7:5

Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? Lk 5:30

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? Jn 8:5

ASKED BY SADDUCEES

Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven? Mt 22:28; Mk 12:23; Lk 20:33

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? Mt 8:29; Mk 1:24; 5:7; Lk 4:34; 8:28							X	
Asked by the Jews								
ASKED BY PHARISEES								
Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? Mt 12:10						X		
Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? Mt 19:3; Mk 10:2						X		
Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? Mt 19:7					X	X		
Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? Mt 22:17; Mk 12:14–15; Lk 20:22						X		
Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law? Mt 22:36; Mk 12:28						X		
Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? Lk 6:2						X		
What shall I do to inherit eternal life? Lk 10:25						X	X	
And who is my neighbour? Lk 10:29						X	X	
Where, Lord? Lk 17:37								
Where is thy Father? Jn 8:19					X	X	X	
Are we blind also? Jn 9:40						X	X	
ASKED BY SCRIBES AND PHARISEES								
Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? Mt 15:2						X		
Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? Mk 7:5					X	X		
Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? Lk 5:30						X		
Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? Jn 8:5					X	X		
ASKED BY SADDUCEES								
Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven? Mt 22:28; Mk 12:23; Lk 20:33						X		

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
ASKED BY THE CHIEF PRIESTS, ELDERS, AND/OR SCRIBES								
Hearest thou what these say? Mt 21:16								X
By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? Mt 21:23; Mk 11:28; Lk 20:2						X	X	
Art thou the Christ? Lk 22:67						X		
Art thou then the Son of God? Lk 22:70						X		
ASKED BY THE HIGH PRIESTS								
Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? Mt 26:62; Mk 14:60; 15:4						X		
Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Mk 14:61						X		
ASKED BY OTHER JEWS								
What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jn 2:18		X						
Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? Jn 2:20					X		X	
Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? Jn 7:20								X
Who art thou? Jn 8:25; 21:12		X				X		
How sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jn 8:33					X	X		
Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jn 8:48								X
Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jn 8:53					X	X	X	
Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jn 8:57				X	X	X		
How long dost thou make us to doubt? Jn 10:24						X		

	Faithful	Seeking	Marvelling	Worried	Rhetorical	Argumentative	Polemical	Hostile
TOTALS ASKED OF EACH TYPE								
TOTALS ASKED BY DISCIPLES								
Totals asked by disciples in general	2	10	2	3	1			
Totals asked by John the Baptist	1							
Totals asked by disciples of John		2						
Totals asked by James and John	1							
Totals asked by Simon Peter	4	7	1					
Totals asked by Twelve Apostles		1		1				
Totals asked by Nathanael		1	1					
Totals asked by Andrew		1						
Totals asked by Thomas		1						
Totals asked by Judas (not Iscariot)		1						
Totals asked by Nicodemus		2	1					
Totals asked by Mary, mother of Jesus				1				
Totals asked by Martha		1		1				
Totals asked by woman of Samaria		3	1					
Totals asked by a young man	1	2						
Totals asked by man cured of blindness	1	1						
TOTALS ASKED BY THE PEOPLE								
Totals asked by general people	2	3	2		1			
Totals asked by the people of Jesus' own country					1	1		1
Totals asked by all in city of Jerusalem			1					
Totals asked by soldiers/officers holding Jesus captive					1			2
Totals asked by Pontius Pilate		2	2		2	1	1	
TOTALS ASKED BY JEWS								
Totals asked by Jews in general		2			1	4	5	4
Totals asked by Pharisees						2	10	4
Totals asked by Scribes and Pharisees						2	4	
Totals asked by Sadducees							1	
Totals asked by Chief Priests, Elders, and/or Scribes							3	2
Totals asked by High Priests							2	
Totals asked by devils								1
TOTAL QUESTIONS ASKED OF JESUS								
Totals of each type of question asked	12	40	11	6	7	10	26	14