

Answers to Questions Part 2

“What are we I Supposed to be doing?”

Matthew 22:34-40

“I am being sanctified by the grace of God; I have been set apart to live for His glory.”

Introduction: Last week we started looking at questions that need to be answered.

A. The Sadducees who believed that there was no resurrection, believed that there was no life after this one asked Jesus a ridiculous question about a lady that would be married seven times and who would be her husband be in heaven.

1. Jesus answered this silly question but also took the opportunity to answer a question that really needs to be answered.
 - a. The answer to the question is in the scripture and the power of God says that there is in fact eternal life, that God is the God of the living not the dead.

■ Now immediately another group, the Pharisees, trying to trick Jesus asks a question: “teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law”

- Their question had nothing to do with getting the answer to what they should be doing there question was designed in such a way as to trick Jesus into giving an answer that they could use for their own agenda to maintain their own power and authority.
- Again we must see that the problem was not the answer the problem was in the question: The question was not a search on how to serve God but to satisfy their pride and power over their life issues.

- Of course Jesus does fall for their trickery and does not tell them which Commandment is the greatest because there is no answer to that question; there is no part of God's character more valuable or more holy and right than another.

Transition: But Jesus does take us to an answer to a question that is real and an answer that changes who we are for His glory.

A. Jesus answers this relevant question "What are we suppose to be doing?"

1. This question is a question that all believers should ask but I think that at times we miss the big answer while searching for a small answer.
- I am not saying that we should not pray very specific for God direction on what to do in specific situation: But the truth is that we may already know the answer.

B. Jesus gives us a twofold answer.

1. Love God.
2. Love your Neighbor.

■ **That is what we are supposed to be doing.**

I. **Love God** verse 37

A. Church, the command is to fall in love with God!

1. First Jesus says love God with some of your heart, no, no, no,
 - Love God with all of your heart!
- The heart of man is the center of the rational-spiritual nature man:
 - From the heart man determines things.
 - Obedience comes from the heart.
 - The heart is the seat of love.
 - The heart is the center of our thoughts.

- The heart is where true understanding takes place.
- The heart is a place of reflection.
- The heart is where our passions and our joy resides.

= Jesus told His disciples in **Luke 12:34** For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

- More often than not the answer to our question how am I suppose to feel or what am I supposed to say or what am I supposed to be experiencing, is answered in loving God with all your heart.

2. Next Jesus further expounds on loving God with all of your soul.

- The soul is life; it is existence it is the part of man that makes us living beings

- The soul is what is affected by the heart: In **Genesis 2:7** **And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

3. Next our love for God is to be with all are minds.

- The mind is the place where we think and where we reason; mind is what discerns what to do and what not to do.

B. These Pharisees were asking the question what is the greatest commandment, what part of God Character and His righteousness is the most important.

1. Church, if we are not diligent and focused we will find ourselves asking the same kind of questions.

- We allow ourselves to fall into the trap of this part of my life I will give to loving God but I will reserve a portion to satisfy my own pride and agenda.

Transition: The second part of the answer Jesus gives is more difficult.

- A. First it cannot be done without first loving God!
- B. Second what is not to love about God?
 1. But often finding a reason to love our neighbor is difficult.
 - But it is the answer to the question what are we supposed to be doing?
 - **Love God – Love Your Neighbor**

II. **Loving Your Neighbor** verse 39

- A. In order to understand the depth of this command we must understand 2 things
 1. We must understand who are neighbor is, and how we go about loving them.
 - B. The word neighbor is the translated from the Greek word “Plesion” and it means those that you are in close proximity to.
 1. The people around us; our family, our co-workers, our church fellowship, it means those that we come in contact with.
 - God answer to what are we suppose to be doing including loving those that may not be so loveable.
- Luke gives in his account of this answer the illustration of the good Samaritan: The Pharisees ask the question who is my neighbor and here is how Jesus answers the question: **Luke 10:30-37**

Jesus replied and said, "A man was ^(A)going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

³¹"And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

³²"Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³"But a ^(B)Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

³⁴and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵"On the next day he took out two ³⁶denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

³⁶"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

³⁷And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

1. The Priest and the Levite ignored the situation it is not as if they did not see the situation.

- They choose not see him as a neighbor

- They choose not to show compassion
- They choose not to show mercy
- They choose not to take action
- They choose to ignore what God's people are supposed to be doing:
Love God and Love your neighbor.

➤ But the Samaritan chose to help someone who given the difference in their culture would probably never choose to help him.

= The answer to the question what am I supposed to doing? Is not Jesus telling us to ignore or to condone sin.

2. Jesus does not tell us to love sin God hates sin: But while we were yet sinners Christ dies for us "sinner".

- When we were unlovable:
 - He had compassion

- He had mercy
- He took action to do for us what we could not do for ourselves!

Transition: Looking at the answer Jesus gives how silly does some of our questions seem?

1. God should I be patient folks all around me are being difficult, and life circumstances are over whelming me?
2. God should I be kind even though these folks are against me and treating me wrong?
3. God should I be gentle even in the midst of those that are mean and destructive to me.
4. God why should I exercise self-control when the whole world seems to me to be out of control.

Closing: In a court of law there is an objection by attorneys when the one that they are defending is ask the same question over and over again just worded differently.

- The attorney will stand and say I object that question has been asked and answered.
- A. So many of our questions about living for God have been asked and answered yet we have a difficult time living with the answer because it does not meet our agenda so we just keep asking it in a different way.
1. Maybe getting the answer is not the problem at all maybe accepting God's answer is the problem.
- The Pharisees ask a question to try and trick Jesus into saying something negative concerning the character of God.
 - They didn't ask the right question but Jesus gave the right answer what are we supposed to be doing for God:

- Love God with everything part of who we are.
- The other is like the first love your neighbor as yourself.

Our decision this morning are we going to keep asking the same question or are we going to live in the answer of Christ?