

KESSID SERMON NOTES

**Sermon**

"Jesus is the Question"

Date

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Speaker

Pastor Chris Potter

I want to be like Jesus, do you want to be like Jesus?

I don't want to be Jesus....

- We gather regularly in hopes of becoming more and more like Jesus.
- According to the book of Luke, Mary and Joseph lose track of their twelve-year-old son Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. They are frantic with worry. When they finally track down Jesus, they find him "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and "putting questions to them." When his parents express their dismay for being caused such anxiety, the preteen Jesus responds by asking two questions: "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" It is telling that the first words Jesus speaks in the Gospels are in the form of a question.

One of Jesus' favorite modes of communication is to ask a question, they are central to His life and teaching. Growing up Jewish, this was the norm for His culture.

According to the Gospels, Jesus asks 307 different questions, is asked only 183 questions, and directly answers only 3.

- Jesus is 100 times MORE likely to ask a question than He is to give a direct answer.
- Jesus asks different kinds of questions in the Gospels, and to different ends. Some seem simple and straightforward ("What are you talking about as you walk along?"). Other questions are rhetorical. They are meant to hang in the air unanswered ("Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?"). Other questions that Jesus asks probe the depths and elude any easy answer: "What are you looking for?" "But who do you say that I am?"
- Still other questions are a direct challenge to the listener: "Why do you not understand what I am saying?" "Where is your faith?" "Why could you not watch with me one hour?"
- At the other end of Jesus' life, according to Mark and Matthew, His last utterance, while on the cross, was yet another question: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). We might assume that, if ever there were a time when Jesus would stick to simple, declarative sentences, it would be after His resurrection. According to the Gospels, however, even the risen Christ keeps asking questions: "What are you talking about as you walk along?" "Do you have anything here to eat?" "Do you love me?"

Have you ever noticed this, or thought about why this is? On the one hand, people of free will answer them any way they choose; on the other, an all-knowing God already knows the answer, so why ask?

- Easy answers can give us a sense of finality. By entertaining questions God has a chance to change us. Answers can be offered as a conclusion. Questions are an invitation to further reflection. For the most part, answers close and questions open.
- It is telling that the word question contains the word quest. That is, a question sends you on a journey and often in search of something valuable.

The Power of a Question...

***Jesus is a teacher who doesn't just inform our intellect but forms our very loves. He isn't content to simply deposit new ideas into your mind; He is after nothing less than your wants, your loves, your longings. His "teaching" doesn't just touch the calm, collected space of reflection and contemplation; He is a teacher who invades the heated, passionate regions of the heart.* – James K.A. Smith**

"Oh my soul ... be prepared for him who knows how to ask questions." –T.S. Eliot

What questions are you asking? Which ones are you giving space to? Who's on your team?

- Do they have the wisdom/tools necessary? The time/capacity?

What are you anchored to?

- Emotions? Old beliefs and fears?

***"I feel a closeness between me and my true self, and a closeness between me and God, being quickened right there in the place that Jesus' question rankles. Right there in the place where the question unsettles, I feel some new intimacy sparked."* - Martin B. Copenhaver**

Peter – Walking on Water

- *Maybe the point is that God is in the chaos with us to begin with. Right there in the muck of things, regardless of whether that is what we think being close to God looks like. Why do you doubt that?*
- **Jesus is the only one that sees fully and still loves completely.**