

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: God's Questions
Speaker: Jeremy Walker
Text: John 1:29-42
Date: January 14, 2018



INTRODUCTION

Questions determine direction:

"New questions can totally shift our perspectives, moving us into fresh ways of looking at problems. Questions have even changed the course of events."

What probing questions have you been asking lately: e.g. jobs, education, family issues, relationships, what's next, major decisions like...?

DISCUSSION

MESSAGE SUMMARY of God's Questions:

God's Questions Alter Our Direction – they have power to transform us.
(Perhaps you might select only one question for the OT and one from the NT.)

- Old Testament questions:
 - ⇒ Jacob – **"What is your name?"** – Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:27)
 - ⇒ Moses – **"What is that in your hand?"** – His shepherd staff—surrenders his identity from shepherding to leading the nation (Exodus 4:2)
 - ⇒ Elijah – God asks him, **"What are you doing here?"** (1 Kings 19:9, 13b) from his own initiative to God's new set of instructions.
- Jesus' questions in the New Testament: *How did each question bring transformation to?*
 - ⇒ Woman at the well: **"Will you give me a drink?"** (John 4:7)
 - ⇒ Adulterous woman: **"Where are they? Has no one condemned you?"** (John 8:10)
 - ⇒ Peter: **"Do you love me?"** (John 21:17)

Central Passage: John 1:29-42

- Make sure to read the text again – there is a lot of content here that is key to the question **"What are you seeking?" (ESV)**
- John the Baptist's claims regarding Jesus:
 - ⇒ V. 29 – Jesus is the Lamb of God "who takes away the sin of the world."
 - ⇒ V. 32 – Jesus' baptism is referenced with the Holy Spirit remaining in Jesus
 - ⇒ V. 34 – "This is the Son of God."
 - ⇒ Two disciples decide to follow Jesus (v.37)

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Jesus' interaction with the disciples:

- **Key question Jesus asks** – "What are you seeking?" "What do you want?" (NIV); "What are you after?" (Message); "What are you looking for?" (NRSV)
- **Disciples respond to Jesus: "Where are you staying?"**
 - ⇒ Was it a strange question? Shouldn't they have asked deeper questions about Jesus than that?
 - ⇒ Not really. They wanted to stay close to Jesus and learn more about him
 - ⇒ Jesus invites them closer, "**Come and you will see,**" and they stay for the day. (v. 39)
 - ⇒ A life-altering journey begins for Simon (vv. 41, 42):
 - a. He invites Andrew to experience the Messiah
 - b. Simon's name is changed to Peter (rock) – His world got rocked!

Application: things to ponder, actions to take

- **How can we respond to questions God asks of us?**
 - ⇒ A posture of listening, opening our eyes
 - a. *Do I tend to cover my eyes or turn away? Plug my ears?*
 - ⇒ Embracing the unknown and taking risks
 - a. *Do I enjoy taking risks or do I tend to play it safe?*
- **Three key areas** we are aspiring to grow in at South Abbotsford:
 - ⇒ **Engaging in prayer** as a first point of action as individuals and as a community
 - ⇒ **Being empowered by, responding to, and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit**
 - ⇒ **Difference-making faith that makes God's kingdom visible in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces and places of recreation**
 - ⇒ If we take these three aspirational areas seriously, then we can expect that we will be "transformed into Jesus' likeness, with ever increasing glory." (2 Corinthians 3:18-19)
 - ⇒ *Can we say that we are serious about being transformed?*
 - ⇒ *Share an instance where I have been transformed, changed.*
- **In view of the second and third key areas above** (my thinking, my attitudes, my actions):
 - ⇒ *In what direction is the Holy Spirit nudging us? What is God asking?*
 - * *Of me?*
 - * *Of this group?*
 - * *Of our church community?*