

QUESTIONS JESUS ANSWERED

Introduction

- 1) The Bible records many questions that were asked and answered
- 2) The Bible records questions men asked of God (Gen. 18:23; Ex. 3:13; Psa. 15:1; Rev. 6:10)
 - a) God's answers become a part of the revelation of truth for our learning
- 3) Jesus answered several questions asked of Him
 - a) Jesus was able to know the heart and motives of those who questioned Him (Jn. 2:24-25; Matt. 22:18)
 - b) Some questions were spoken as statements of fact (Jn. 6:9, 68); others were prompted by Jesus' own teaching (Mk. 13:4)
 - c) Jesus refused to answer questions of those who put Him on trial (Mk. 14:60-61; Lk. 23:9)
- 4) Consider three important questions asked of Jesus and His instructive answers that we still need to hear and understand today!

I) **“BY WHAT AUTHORITY ARE YOU DOING THESE THINGS? AND WHO GAVE YOU THIS AUTHORITY?” (Matthew 21:23)**

- A) Asked by the chief priests and elders of the people (v. 23a)
 - 1) These usually gave authority to teach and act around the temple and Jerusalem
 - 2) Jesus had angered them the day before by cleansing the temple, healing people, and being praised by the children (vv. 12-16)
- B) Being asked for a source of authority for what we do is a very legitimate request
 - 1) In the home, on the job, in school, everyday interactions, in religion, etc.
- C) Jesus' answer included a question about the source of John's baptism – “where was it from? From heaven or from men?” (vv. 24-26)
 - 1) Two sources of authority in religion – from heaven [divine] or from men [human]
 - 2) Man's authority will render our worship vain (Matt. 15:9)
 - 3) Divine authority must authorize all that we say and do (Col. 3:17)

II) **“IS IT LAWFUL TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR, OR NOT?” (Matthew 22:17)**

- A) Asked by a joined group of Pharisees and Herodians (vv. 15-16)
 - 1) Intended to trap Jesus in His words – Jesus knew their wicked intentions (v. 18)
- B) Jesus answered by asking first to see the tax money and asking about the image and inscription on it [Caesar Tiberius] (vv. 19-20)
 - 1) Answered: “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's” (v. 21)
 - 2) The Christian has important responsibilities to his earthly citizenships and his heavenly citizenship (cf. Rom. 13:5-7)
 - 3) We are to be subject to governing authorities unless we must obey God first (Acts 5:29)

III) **“WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?” (Matthew 18:1)**

- A) Asked by the disciples, who seemed to have an ongoing rivalry (cf. Lk. 22:24)
- B) Worldly minds obsessed with who is first, the greatest, the best places (Mk. 12:39)
- C) Jesus answered by saying they must become like little children (vv. 2-5)
 - 1) Humility, selflessness, lowliness of mind makes one great before God

Conclusion

Pilate asked Jesus, **“ARE YOU A KING?” (John 18:37)**. Jesus said, “Yes, that is the reason I came into the world” (v. 38). Are you in His kingdom today? Only there will you be saved!