

A red ceramic mug filled with dark coffee sits on the left side of a light-colored wooden table with blue-painted accents. In the center, a white paper napkin is laid out, featuring the phrase "Ask the right questions" written in a blue, cursive script. To the right of the napkin, a silver ballpoint pen lies diagonally. The entire scene is set against a background of a rustic wooden surface with blue-painted sections.

Ask
the right
questions

John 3:1-3

Ask The Right Questions

- In life it is important to ask the right questions
- Jesus was a master at this
 - **Matthew 16:13 NIV**, 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
 - **Matthew 16:14 NIV**, 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Ask The Right Questions

- In life it is important to ask the right question
 - The most important question, the right question Jesus needed them to personally answer was the next verse
 - **Matthew 16:15 ESV** 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
 - **Matthew 16:16 ESV**, 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God
 - This response must be kept fresh in your mind Peter

Ask The Right Questions

- **Matthew 16:17-18 ESV**, 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock (*the truth of who Jesus is*) I will build my church (*your life, eternity*), and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - This information of who Jesus is, is so deep, so valuable God had to reveal it to you Peter
 - It will lead you to live for God in this corrupt, chaotic, confusing world
 - It is so powerful even hell itself will never be able to overcome it
 - Keep your eyes on Jesus, ear open to His voice

Ask The Right Questions

- Then they remembered the words of Jesus
 - **Matthew 4:19-20 ESV**, 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- There was a man once named Nicodemus that came to Jesus with his questions and before he could ask them, Jesus gave him the answer to the right question

Scripture

- **John 3:1-3 NIV**, 1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” 3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Scripture

- **John 3:1-3 MSG**, 1-2 There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we all know you’re a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.” 3 Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it’s not possible to see what I’m pointing to—to God’s kingdom.”

Ask The Right Questions

- The disciples were great at asking the wrong question
 - **John 9:1-2 NIV**, 1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.
2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
 - **Vs. 3** “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
 - So what could have been a correct question to ask Jesus here?
 - How can God be glorified in this?
 - What could be the work God wants to do here?

Ask The Right Questions

- Scripture seems to indicate Nicodemus was a good and godly man
 - He identifies God's hand in Jesus' life, **NIV-** "For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." **MSG-** "No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."
 - He tries and stop the declaring Jesus should die in the ruling council
 - He shows up with Joseph of Arimathea at the cross of Jesus to bury Him

Ask The Right Questions

- We don't have recorded what questions he wanted to ask Jesus
 - Jesus provided Nicodemus with the answer to the question he should be asking
 - How can a person be allowed or be accepted into God's Kingdom?
 - Where can I find the correct answers?
 - Who can guide me to the correct path of life?
 - Where can I find strength, wisdom, truth to walk the path God has for me?

Ask The Right Questions

- Nicodemus assumptions
 - I am a Jew, the ancestor of Abraham
 - I keep the Law more closely than almost every other Jew
 - I should be let in because of who I am and what I have done
- Did you pick up Nicodemus' lack of peace, feeling like something is missing in his life?
- There were some other questions Nicodemus needed to ask

What is truth or where can I find absolute truth?

- Truth in our world always seems to be muddied
- Can I find truth that is always true regardless of the circumstances in my life?
- Absolute truth is whatever is always valid, regardless of parameters or context, feelings, or desires
 - The absolute in the term indicates one or more of: a quality of truth that cannot be exceeded; complete truth; unvarying and permanent truth

What is truth or where can I find absolute truth?

- “What is truth?” is the question asked by Pilate as Jesus is standing before him
 - **John 18:38 NIV**, “What is (*absolute*) truth?” retorted Pilate.
 - Retort = sharp, angry, cutting
 - Once again, Jesus had already given Pilate the answer to this question
 - **John 1:37 NIV**, “Everyone on the side of truth listens (*with the intent to obey*) to me.”
 - **MSG**, “Everyone who is of the truth listens (*with the intent to obey*) to my voice.”

What is truth or where can I find absolute truth?

- **John 14:6 NIV**, 6 Jesus answered, “I am the (*singular*) way and the (*singular*) truth and the (*singular*) life. No one comes to the Father (*into His Kingdom*) except through me.”
 - In Jesus Christ you will find perfect direction for your life, truth for living and access into life as you were created for
 - You will find Jesus Christ throughout all of God’s Word
- So what is the answer to the question, “How can a person be allowed or be accepted into God’s Kingdom?”
 - Only through Jesus Christ - His work, ways, and word

Who are you, Lord?

- The deeper you can answer this question, the deeper your relationship with Christ will be
 - The more peace you will experience
 - The more contentment and joy that can fill your soul regardless of the circumstances experiencing
- This question was asked by a person in open rebellion and hatred towards Christians, Saul of Tarsus

Who are you, Lord?

- **Acts 9:1-5a NIV**, 1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.
 - **5b NIV**, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

Who are you, Lord?

- Saul's question has some to do with identification, but mostly with authority
 - What gives you the right to interfere in my life and tell me how to live?
 - Who gives you the authority/right to speak your truth in my circumstances?
 - To alter what I want to do
 - To change what I think are right and proper
 - Are these not the same questions we ask today?

Who are you, Lord?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - Jesus has the authority to define truth
 - He has the authority to ensure His truth is maintained throughout eternity
 - He has the authority to dictate the rules that allow you access into His Kingdom
 - He has the authority to ensure all His promises will be kept and fulfilled

Who are you, Lord?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - He has the authority to dictate how you live, think, respond in this corrupt world as citizens of His Kingdom
- Jesus is nothing less than God wrapped in flesh, seated at the right-hand of the Father waiting until it is time to bring His Kingdom to earth

What must I do to be saved or how can I be born-again?

- This is the question that must be answered correctly by everyone who desires access into eternal life not just eternal existence
- This is really the question Nicodemus should have been asking but probably seeking
- **Acts 16:29-30 NIV**, 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
 - **Vs. 31 NIV**, They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household (*because of the change they see in your life*).”

What must I do to be saved or how can I be born-again?

- Take as your absolute truth that Jesus is the Son of God
 - **John 1:1-5 NIV**, 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
 - **Vs. 14 NIV**, The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

What must I do to be saved or how can I be born-again?

- Take as absolute truth that Jesus bore the penalty of your sins, rebellion on the cross
 - **1st Peter 2:21-25 NIV**, 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 25 For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

What must I do to be saved or how can I be born-again?

- Take as absolute truth that access into eternal life, God's Kingdom is only through Jesus Christ
 - **Acts 4:12 NIV**, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
 - **MSG**, "Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we can be saved, only this one."
- Truth is not always popular, but it is always true

Ask The Right Questions

- You can ask the right questions all you want, but if do not respond to the truth of those questions it profits you nothing
- Jesus knows how to ask good questions and He is asking them to you this morning
 - **Mark 8:36-37 NIV**, “36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul (*eternally*)? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul (*eternally*)?”
 - Where is the profit to have everything this world can give you but to then spend your eternity in hell, separate from all that is good?
 - What will you exchange in this life for your eternity after death

Ask The Right Questions

- There is no purgatory after death as some claim
 - There are no do overs, coming back as a lesser species
 - You only have this one life gifted to you by God today
- The essential question is this-
 - How will you live knowing there is an eternity waiting for you?

A photograph of a red ceramic mug filled with black coffee, a silver pen, and a white paper napkin. The napkin is placed on a wooden surface with blue paint splatters. The text 'Ask the right questions' is written on the napkin in a blue, cursive font. The mug is on the left, the pen is on the right, and the napkin is in the center.

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