

Lord's Supper Talk "Learning from Questions" September 2020

This week at work I was in a meeting with 56 other leaders throughout our corporation. There was a point in the meeting where a consultant on our business philosophy asked three questions to a selected panel within the group of 56. Three particular leaders were chosen to answer questions relative to current events in our business in order to reflect a commitment to our designated philosophy. I, along with, I'm certain, many others were anxious to hear their answers, as to gather some bit of wisdom that we could take and apply in our roles and share with others.

As I was reflecting how much we learn by asking questions. I couldn't help but start thinking about many of the questions we find in scripture.

I've chosen 3 questions that came to mind from the gospels that I want to reflect on this morning.

The first one is found in:

Matthew 26:40

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.

Jesus shortly before he was betrayed and arrested went with his closest disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Three times he left them to go and pray. It was during these times that he poured out his heart to his Heavenly Father with prayers as He was grieved to the point of death. Upon his return each of the three times he found his closest friends and disciples asleep. It is in this context that he asks them the question recorded in this verse.

I have to ask myself this question, as we/I eagerly await Jesus' return, am I awake and on the alert. Or have I gotten spiritually drowsy, sleepy, has my devotion and commitment waned?

The second question I'd like to reflect on, is one that was repeated three times:

John 21:15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

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Following Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to his disciples, now for the third time along side the sea. They had breakfast together and then Jesus ask his disciple Peter, "Do you love me". Three times the question is asked. The response each time is an emphatic, yes. Remember, it was shortly before Jesus death that this same Peter had emphatically denied Jesus three times. Peter is restored to service as Jesus prescribes the work Peter is to do in response to his love for Him.

Do you love Jesus? Do I love Jesus? Does he know that we love Him?

The last question I'd like to reflect on is found in:

Matthew 27:46

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Some of Jesus' last words before his death by crucifixion, hanging on the cross in shame and ultimate aloneness. He felt the absence of his father, as he took the sins of the world upon himself. Can you imagine, abandoned by your father, at the lowest point in your whole life. Maybe some of you can in this physical life. The pain, the loneliness.

In John 12:32, Jesus said, If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to myself.

Are we in close fellowship with Jesus, or are we fine to "leave him alone", or keep him at a distance? Are we ok with not remembering him during this time of communion regularly, leaving him alone, yet we want him to remain close enough to call on in times of trouble?

As we share in this communion this morning, may these questions remind us that Jesus deserves our undistracted love and devotion, that he desires to be in close relationship with us, and that we should remain alert and awake, knowing, trusting, and hoping for his return.

Father in Heaven, as we partake of the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread today, may we be mindful of our relationship with you. Help me to search my heart, to be alert in you. We thank you for the hope that we have through the forgiveness we have because of Jesus' death on the cross. Please bless this time of communion to your glory. In Jesus Name, Amen.