

THE QUESTION

INTRO

- There is ONE question I believe can change the course of your life... and is the secret to JOY
- There reason I am up here and not in my corner - where I find it far more comfortable - is because of the QUESTION

The Questions we ask shape the Answers we find.

2012 Houston Airport

- Passengers were complaining about how long it took them to get their luggage after a flight
- So the Houston Airport got to work asking:
 - How can we get passengers their luggage faster?
- They trained staff. Introduced new, more efficient processes.
- They reduced wait times well within national airport average
- Passengers still complained
- Then they asked a new question:
 - How can we make it so passengers don't have to wait for their luggage?
- They accomplished this by moving the baggage claim further away from the gates. So as soon as passengers arrived their luggage was waiting for them. And the complaints stopped!

They found a different Solution they never would have BECAUSE they asked a different question.

PART I: The WRONG QUESTION

In the movie - Timothy Green - a husband and wife long to have a child but can't. One night they imagine just for a moment what their child would be like. They write it all down. And at the end of that night they bury their hopes and their dream in their garden. That night, a child appears out of the soil. Their child.

“God had a dream and He wrapped YOU around it.”

“He has prepared good works in advance” EPH 2:10

When believers are faced with a big decision or difficult decision you will typically hear them say things like,

“I am praying for the right decision...”

“I am waiting on God to hear the right thing to do...”

I believe this is the WRONG question.

Author Donald Miller describes life like a movie.

If we went into a movie and the protagonist's main objective was to buy a new Tesla. And the whole movie he worked a hard, mundane job. He scrimped and saved. And at the end you had enough money and he bought that Tesla and drove off the lot in his dream car... and then the curtain fell. We would all boo. That's a terrible, meaningless movie.

YET... we live lives like this and wonder why we feel life is meaningless.

WE HAVE

- The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead in us ROM 6:10
- We are being formed into the image of Christ 2 COR 3:18
- We are seated with Christ in heavenly places EPH 2:6
- He has given us the keys of the kingdom MATT 16:14
- And our great ambition is to save up for a new car!!

CS LEWIS puts it this way

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

WHY does this happen...

Consider the Parable of the Talents - MATT 25

The servant who hides the money in the ground and does nothing with it, defends his action by saying, “I knew you were a harsh man.”

Harsh in greek is SKLEROS. Which means demanding / quick to punish.

God says:

- He has washed us of all our sins 1JOHN 1:7
- Our sins are on the ocean floor MICAH 7:9
- Our transgressions are as far as the east is from the west PSALMS 103:12
- He will remember our sins no more HEB 8:12

Focusing in our questions on the “**right thing**” I believe comes from a broken paradigm that does not fully see God rightly and His Grace.

So what IS the right question?

PART II: The RIGHT QUESTION

“The heavens declare His **glory**” PSALMS 19:1

“The Son is the radiance of God’s **glory**” HEB 1:3

“I brought you **glory** by doing your work” JOHN 17:4

“His eternal power and eternal natures is being revealed (glory)”
ROM 1:20

Right OR Wrong is not the proper question.

The better question is:

WHAT WILL BRING HIM THE MOST GLORY?

For it is with us and through us that His Glory shines and His divine nature is revealed on the earth... why? So HE can draw all men unto Him!

I am up here speaking today because of this question.

IF I asked myself - should I be preaching this morning - what’s the right thing? I would get caught up disqualifying myself and making excuses why there is someone better or more suitable.

Instead I asked -

What will give God glory?

The answer? Coming up here and speaking about how awesome He is. And using the gifts He has given me to rave about Him.

What is GLORY?

To praise something according to that which it is unique like no other.
So see the essence and be filled with WONDER!

Consider the Bald Eagle

- It can spot prey from miles away
- Flies up to 150 mph
- Its talon's have a gripping strength of 400 PSI (the human hand is only 30 PSI!)
- It is the top of the food chain

We see a bald eagle soaring. We see it hunt its prey. We stare in wonder at such an awesome creation. And we cannot help but admire the creator who made something so awe inspiring.

Now consider a Bald Eagle in a cage at a pet shop

- Feathers falling out
- Wings clipped
- Picking at a dead frozen mouse that's deposited in its food tray

Does anybody see this creature and get filled with wonder and awe?

Of course not! Because there is no glory!!

The glory is only seen when that creature is fulfilling and doing the things it is uniquely designed by God to do.

JUDGES 7

God charges Gideon to fight the Midianites. But He tells him to start dismissing his soldiers because his army is too big. Lest Israel think their own hand saved them.

God wants to make sure they know HE saved them.

Glory is doing things that would be IMPOSSIBLE without Him!

When we do the things we can do on our own, there is no glory.

Doing the impossible with God does NOT make it easy... it makes it possible!

God is seeking to have ALL of US filled with ALL of HIM!

Star Wars illustration:

We watch Luke on his journey. As he wants to save the galaxy. But he feels he is a nobody. He wonders if he has what it takes. He questions if he can really use the force.

By the final movie (Return of the Jedi), he faces his father (Vader) and finally declares "I am a Jedi like my father before me."

We cheer. Because deep down we all have had that feeling that what if maybe we were meant to save the galaxy...

Spoiler Alert: You are the ONE!

Maybe not the galaxy... maybe your neighborhood... your family... your workplace... your state... you are the ONE who is supposed to save the galaxy.

And you have something better than the force... or the ring of power... or in infinity stones... you have the power of the almighty living God dwelling in you!

NOTHING compares to doing what we were made for.
Being filled with His Glory. This is the secret to JOY.

PART III: KNOWING WHAT YOU'RE MADE FOR

How do you know what you're made for?

Our destiny/calling like a table is not held up by just one leg. But many. Together they form a stable, reliable picture of what you are made for.

1. His Word
 - a. His word alone has endless assignments waiting
 - b. It is also the measure by which we make sure that our desires never conflict with His immutable word
2. Your God history
 - a. Where have you seen unusual favor on your life?
 - b. What activities/talents come unnaturally easy to you. Where do you excel and have gifting?
3. Godly counsel
 - a. Ask the people closely to you what they see in your life. Where they have seen you shine and thrive the most
 - b. PRO 11:14
4. The desires of your heart
 - a. PSALMS 37:4
 - b. Why are we so afraid of our desires?
 - c. We draw close to Christ. He embraces us. We feel His love. His kindness. His goodness. Then He steps back and asks us, "Now tell me, what's in your heart?"
5. The prophetic words over your life
 - a. 1 TIM 1:18