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# **Six Questions to Ask**

**# 175**

**Series: Miscellaneous Messages**

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# Six Questions to Ask

I want to ask you six questions. As I asked myself these questions just a little while ago, I became very sorely concerned and convicted because I recognized that if I were to be honest with myself, asking these questions would be literally saying this: “Through this Bible study and other areas of our lives, have these principles been communicated to each of us?” I became convicted that there were great areas lacking in my own convictions and understanding.

What I want you to do is ask yourself these six questions. Before we pause to go our separate ways, and before we commit this study to the Lord, hopefully, God will bring into our hearts some deeper insights in the answering of these six questions.

## Question 1- “Do I have a vision of God’s plan for my life?”

In order to have a vision of God’s plan, you have to be content with God’s purpose. So, the question I had to ask myself and the question I am asking you is “Are you satisfied and content with what God is doing in your life?” If, what He has revealed to you in terms of ministry, finances, job and so forth, today, is to be your goal, your lot for the rest of your life, would you be satisfied?” What if God were to tap you on the shoulder tonight and say, “Hey, I want you to continue to grow in the Spirit, but I want you to remain just as you are. I want you to set your ambitions aside at the foot of the cross and be content.” What would you say?

I had to zero in—and I hope you will forgive me but even if you won’t, I’m going to do it anyway. We read in Scripture,

...for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, to be content.

(Philippians 4:11b NKJV)

Now godliness, [or Godlikeness] with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

(I Timothy 6:6-8 NKJV)

## Six Questions to Ask

Most of the problems that we face in our Christian experience is the absence of contentment. We just don't think what we have is good enough. But, I'm here to tell you, that when you have Jesus, what you have is good enough. Let's look at what Paul said in Philippians 4,

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.  
Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full  
and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV)

In essence Paul is saying, "Because I have Him, the rest of it really falls into the category of being incidental. I can be rich and I can be poor. I can be sick or I can be healthy. I can have friendships, or I can have none. I'm content. Why? Because Paul had found a hiding place in Jesus that met all of his needs.

The biggest area of discontentment for 92¾ percent of you is the fact that you're single. Now, the other 7¼ percent are married. I'm not going to ask you. But if we were to really level and just look each other square in the eye (singular), I would have to admit that most of you would find your anxiety, frustration and difficulty, even in terms of spiritual things, is wrestling with your lot in life. If you're single, you have pressure from every conceivable area to be otherwise, from the world, your family, your friends, your church, etc.

I really had to wrestle with this. I hated to bring it up, but most of us don't fully realize that singleness, if you will pardon the expression, is not second-class citizenship in the kingdom of God. I have to ask you this question again. "What if God has called you to remain that way? Are you satisfied? If it means the best God has to offer to you, will you take it? Would you rather be single in the will of God, than to have a wrong marriage?"

I want to remind you that everyone in this room is either married or engaged. And I want to remind you that everyone in this room is going to have a wedding, and it's going to be the most beautiful wedding that has ever been put on. The chapel is going to be the courts of heaven. The pastor is going to be God the Father! The music is going to be the angelic host singing Hosanna. The guests will be all the saints who have ever walked the face of the earth. Can you imagine a guest list like that?

Moses will be there. Dwight L. Moody will be there. Abraham will be there. George Mueller will be there. Billy Graham will be

## Six Questions to Ask

there. Joseph will be there. Jesus will be there, for one occasion, *getting married*. Every one of you is going to have a wedding someday. And every one of you is going to have a wedding feast someday, the likes of which you have never imagined. You will be seated around the throne of God partaking of the best God has to offer and worshipping Him. And one more thing, you're going to have a honeymoon.

Now they say the honeymoon never lasts, but that's not true. I'm here to tell you there is one that will. It will go on for all of eternity. I'm sure that God has a plan in mind for most of you to marry someday. But, betwixt now and then, there comes frustration, anxiety and mixed spiritual blessings, because it becomes so foremost in our minds and such a source of pressure and frustration.

I want to read you a passage that is so familiar to all of you that you would rather I didn't read it, but I will. This is what Paul had to write in I Corinthians, chapter 7.

Now about those questions you asked in your last letter: my answer is that if you do not marry, it is good.

But usually, it is best to be married, each having his own wife, and each woman her own husband, because otherwise you might fall back into sin. (I Corinthians 7:1-2 TLB)

Then he goes on to talk about the rights that are carried on in the marriage. Then he continues,

I'm not saying that you must marry, but you certainly may if you wish.

I wish everyone could get along without marrying, just as I do. But we are not all the same. God gives some the gift of a husband or wife, and others He gives the gift of being able to stay happily unmarried.

So I say to those who aren't married and to widows—better to stay unmarried if you can, just as I am.

But if you can't control yourselves, go ahead and marry. It is better to marry than to burn with lust.

Now, for those who are married I have a command, not just a suggestion. (I Corinthians 7:6-10a TLB)

Then, Paul talks about a husband and wife—when one is a Christian and one is not. Then he goes on further in the verse and he says,

## Six Questions to Ask

Usually a person should keep on with the work he was doing when God called him. (I Corinthians 7:20 TLB)

So, dear brothers, whatever situation a person is in when he becomes a Christian, let him stay there, for now the Lord is there to help him.

Now I will try to answer your other question. What about girls who are not yet married? Should they be permitted to do so? In answer to this question, I have no special command for them from the Lord. But the Lord in his kindness has given me wisdom that can be trusted, and I will be glad to tell you what I think.

Here is the problem: We Christians are facing great dangers to our lives at present. In times like these I think it is best for a person to remain unmarried.

Of course, if you already are married, don't separate because of this. But if you aren't, don't rush into it at this time.

But if you men decide to go ahead anyway and get married now, it is all right; and if a girl gets married in times like these, it is no sin. However, marriage will bring extra problems that I wish you didn't have to face right now.

The important thing to remember is that our remaining time is very short, and so are our opportunities for doing the Lord's work. For that reason those who have wives should stay as free as possible for the Lord;

happiness or sadness or wealth should not keep anyone from doing God's work. (I Corinthians 7:24-30 TLB)

In all you do, I want you to be free from worry. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him.

But a married man can't do that so well; he has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife.

His interests are divided. It is the same with a girl who marries. She faces the same problem. A girl who is not married is anxious to please the Lord in all she is and does. But a married woman must consider other things such as housekeeping and the likes and dislikes of her husband.

I am saying this to help you, not to try to keep you from marrying. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few other things as possible to distract your attention from him. (I Corinthians 7:32-35 TLB)

Now what Paul is really saying in that passage is, "I'm not

## Six Questions to Ask

against marrying. I think it's neat." And all you of you know, that from a personal perspective, I recommend it very highly. But what I recommend even more highly than that is the will of God. It's perfect. It's good. It's acceptable. This passage says that it's not the will of God for everyone to marry and it's not the will of God for everyone to marry today. The reason I bring this up is all of us need a vision of God's plan for our lives. To get that vision, we have to get out of the way any areas of discontentment.

I think that Jesus Christ did more to elevate the role of the single than anyone else who has ever lived. He took away the stigma; He made it a special calling and honor if God so ordains you and calls you. He made it a position of elegance rather than one of compromise. What I simply want you to do is ask God to give you a vision of His plan for your life. For the moment, simply set aside preconceived notions and ideas of the world and rest in the Lord. When it's His time, and if it's His person, then praise Him for it; but if not, God has given you a special gift and a special calling, at least for now. Walk in it, hold your head up and be grateful for it.

### Question 2- "Do I have a vision of the Body of Christ?"

Most of us don't. I thought about that as I was working on this lesson, scribbling, tearing it up and starting over. Most of us, basically, do not have a vision of the Body of Christ. If I were to ask each one of us to write down our description of the Body of Christ, most of us would begin by restricting it to our little world. We wouldn't mean to, but we would restrict it to those who think the way we do, who dot the i's and cross the t's and breathe the way we do; those who use the same lingo and language we do.

We would immediately exclude, although in kind of an undercover way, those who seem to be offshoots, or are out in the cold, or maybe just a little wild or just a little different. We would tend to draw a picture of the Body of Christ shaped like us. Have you ever realized that? Our concept of the Body of Christ is an extension of ourselves, and our vision is so limited. I have found in talking to you and in looking into my own heart, I recognized the problems that develop amongst members of the Body, within the framework of the Body and around the world, that we, as Christians, do not have a concept of who God is and what His Body is all about. It's everywhere.

I think many of you can align with Elijah when God appeared

## Six Questions to Ask

to him. He was sitting there weeping and feeling sorry for himself, said to God, “You’re in trouble. I’m all You have left.” God looked at Elijah and said, “You have got to be kidding. I’ve got troops I haven’t counted yet. They are over here, and over there, and you wouldn’t recognize them if you saw them, Elijah. But I know them. They are Mine.” And the thing I think we fail to grasp is that the Body of Christ is so diverse and that diversity is what makes it so beautiful.

What we tend to do is, instead of building bridges across the Body, we build walls. This group doesn’t want anything to do with that group, and we limit the grace and power of God. I’m not saying we should give up our convictions. I am saying we should reach out and understand the rest of the Body because we are going to spend the rest of our lives with them. You are going to spend eternity with some people you would snub their nose at you if they walked in and looked at you right now. And if they worshipped the way they worship, you would walk out on them. If they used lingo you don’t use, you would think they weren’t born again. You are going to get to heaven and they are going to wrap their arms around you, and Jesus is going to wrap His arms around the two of you and say, “Hey, brothers and sisters.” That’s the Body of Christ.

We want to be termed as liberal, or conservative, or fundamental, or charismatic, or non-charismatic, or as this or as that. And I’m here to tell you that I am none of those. I am a Christian, and that’s what you are if you’ve met Christ. That’s what makes it work. Turn to John, chapter 17. This is Jesus talking.

Neither pray I for these alone, [it is not for their sake that I make this request] but for them also which shall believe on me through their word [and teaching];

This is the reason.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee [that same relationship that Jesus had with the Father, we are to have with other Christians; other parts of the body], that they also may be one is us: that the world may believe [and be convinced] that thou hast sent me.

(John 17:20,21)

In other words, Jesus said, “How is the world going to know who I am?” It’s by the unity and the harmony within the Body of Christ. Now that doesn’t mean organizational unity. It doesn’t



## Six Questions to Ask

mean you give up your doctrinal positions and you go join hands with someone who is different. It means that you look at them and love them and recognize that they are God's. You may not understand all they do or say, but God does. They are a hand, you are a foot, and the hand never could understand the foot. If the hand tried to put a shoe on, it wouldn't fit. If the hand tried to dance, it couldn't do it. If the hand tried to see, it would run into a door. If the hand tried to listen, it couldn't hear a word.

You see the Body of Christ is so diverse that Paul said,

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you";  
nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

(I Corinthians 12:21 NKJV)

So, the hand should never say to the foot, I have no need of you. The hand wouldn't get anywhere without the foot. The ear can't say to the eye, I don't need you; it would run into every wall in town.

All I am saying is catch a glimpse of your vision of the Body of Christ. It's universal. It's around the world. It's in this room. And from this room there comes such a diversity of denominational, doctrinal and experiential backgrounds, that if you were to sit around in a group and begin to share, your eyes would bug out and you would say, "Good grief. I didn't know he or she came from that kind of situation." So what? What do you have in common? Jesus. What do you need to have in common? Jesus.

All I am asking is that you and I, in the summer ahead and in the years ahead, as we get older—and believe me, some of us have gotten a lot older—begin to look back and realize that God is so much smarter than we thought He was. He's got all these neat people stashed around in all these different places that have never bowed the knee to Baal. They love Him and serve Him and they stand tall. And when the rapture comes, there they go.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

—For the body is not one member, but many.

(I Corinthians 12:12-14)

## Six Questions to Ask

### Question 3- “Do we have a vision of the Great Commission?”

It’s almost like we need to have a headline in Christian newspapers today: ATTENTION: THE GREAT COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN REVOKED. We all need to learn this little four-line poem.

I would like a vision of the world,  
All of its needs to see;  
But every time I take a look  
All I see is me.

The problem is two-fold. *One, we have become our own ministries.* How many of you can honestly answer this question, “Are you your own ministry?” What do you think the most about spiritually? Be honest with yourself. Three people, right? Me, myself and I. How am I doing? What am I doing? How am I being treated? What’s good for me? What’s in it for me? How do they feel about me?

Jesus said,

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

(John 20:21b NKJV)

In Matthew 20, He tells us how the Father sent Him.

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

(Matthew 20:26-28)

He was not sent to be ministered to. He was sent to minister and to give His life as a ransom for many. In other words, you are not ever going to get a vision of the world while you have a log of self-centeredness in your eye.

Most of us have PMS—Pulse Measuring Syndrome. All day long we sit around and measure how spiritual we are, while the world walks about lost. And there are believing Christians walking around who are not growing. They will come up to you and say, “Hey, could you help me?” And you say, “Just a minute 32, 33, 34, oh my goodness. I’ve got a problem. I’ll run and do something about it.” And you dig a hole and deal with your problem. There is nothing wrong with dealing with your problems. But when you

## Six Questions to Ask

have a problem in your Christian experience, do three things. Look at it, confess it to God and correct it, and then forget it.

Some of us have made our problems our life. What that does is turn the spotlight on us. Find Paul's inner struggles in the Scripture. In Romans 7:15, he is in essence saying, "Oh, woe is me, the things I want to do, I don't do and the things I don't want to do, I do." But, did he ever tell you what they were? Did he say, "Let me share my heart with you? Let me tell you about this problem with greed that I've got? Let me tell you about this problem with lust that I've got?" No. He told God about it and dealt with it and pressed on. There was a lost world out there.

What I want us to realize is, in the midst of all this, it's not wrong to have problems. It's wrong to make our problems our life. Some of us are never going to get away from our problems because we aren't involved in anyone else's life. Look at Jesus. Scripture says, He "was in all points tempted like as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). Look at the four gospels and try to find an account of Jesus' complaints about His problems. You could write a book about it, but nobody would buy it because it would be empty.

In other words, just take your personal problems to the Lord and then turn it into prayer power for other people. Take that frustration and pour it before the Lord and begin to intercede for others. You weren't called to be a tree that stands around diagnosing its limbs. What you are told to do is plant yourself by a river of living water and you will grow.

*The second area of the Great Commission that we forget is, we are our brother's keeper.* Turn to Luke, chapter 10. All of you are familiar with it.

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

And He said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. [I'm glad to know those words, half dead are in the Bible. I've always wondered where that phrase came from.]

## Six Questions to Ask

And by chance [that word really doesn't need to be in there it was by divine call] there came down a certain priest that way: (Luke 10:27-31a)

Here was a religious leader. He had all the answers. And he looked around and he said, "You're dirty and you're bloody and I've got a meeting. And he passed on the other side. And then likewise, a Levite, when he had come to the place, he looked on him and said, "Ugh. That doesn't fit into my plan at all. I've got to go witness. And he passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, [who wasn't even of the same church] as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, [he really saw him] he had compassion on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. [He played nursemaid. He didn't even know him.]

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. (Luke 10:33-35)

You say, "Boy, what a neat guy." Why do you suppose Jesus told us that story? Do you want to know who needs a neighbor? Anybody who hurts. Do you know who is a neighbor? Anybody who helps anybody who hurts. I have never had a problem finding people to share their problems. But I have had such a problem finding people to share their lives and that's what it's all about.

In Matthew 28:19 and 20, we are told we have one basic responsibility—to go into all the world, preach the gospel, baptize the converts and to make disciples.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit,

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; (Matthew 28:19,20a NKJV)

I want to remind you that most of us don't really have a vision of the Great Commission, but it hasn't been revoked. It is still there. I would like to pray that perhaps this summer, some of us would get lost again in seeing others found.

Question 4- "Do we have a vision of faithfulness—of finishing

## Six Questions to Ask

what we start, completing the task, and tending to the details?”

Matthew 25:21 and 23 tells us that he who is faithful in the little things, God is going to set him up and make him ruler over the big things.

John 15:4-8 tells us, that if you abide in Him, and let His words abide in you, then you can ask what you will. You can have what you need.

Have faithfulness in the details. I Corinthians 4:2 tells us, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

II Timothy 2:2 tells us, the things you have seen and heard, commit to faithful men. Don't waste your time committing to other men. They won't follow through.

Proverbs 20:6 asks who can find a faithful man? Most of us would have to look in the mirror and say, "I don't know." Faithfulness with the details of life.

How many of you have made commitments in the last year concerning your own personal prayer life? Have you been faithful? Commitments to time in the Word? Have you been faithful? Commitments to worship and spend time alone with God? Have you been faithful? Commitments to have a ministry? Have you been faithful? You know, most of us are like a family who gets started on a vacation. We pack the car; get the kids, the dogs, and the parakeet. We get everything in the car, close the door, turn on the key, and the wife turns to the husband and says, "Why won't the car start?" And he says, "Well, I've got the parakeet and the dogs and the food, and all the clothes in the suitcases." The wife says, "What did you forget?" The husband says, "Oh, we don't have any fuel. We can't go anywhere." We've got the goals, the mechanics, the action, but we don't have the power to be faithful.

Question 5- "Do we have a vision of what love is?"

Some of us in this group have spent twelve weeks studying love. At the end of those twelve weeks, I think we came to a unanimous conclusion that *we didn't know what love was*. We knew *Who* love was, and we were glad we know Him. We knew a little bit about *how love works*. But we don't know *how* to love.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, [the way, what? Jesus said, the way I love you] that you also love one another.

## Six Questions to Ask

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34,35 NKJV)

I Timothy 1:3-6 tells us that the end or completion of the end purpose of all the doctrine and commandments is love! If you only have room in your life for one goal, and some of us do only have room in our lives for one goal, I would encourage you for the next year to make this your goal. Ask God to give you a vision of love. You can go to seminars; you can even go to seminary. You can memorize, you can meditate, you can vegetate, you can study and you can even teach, and not know how to love.

In fact, I think that's what a fellow named Paul said. And with your permission, though it's old hat, I'm going to read it again. Close your eyes while I do and see if it makes any new penetration into the needs of your life.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.

Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

## Six Questions to Ask

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.  
Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also man  
know.

And now abide [they last] faith, hope, love, these three; but  
[and God adds this postscript through Paul; they are not  
equal] the greatest of these is love.

(I Corinthians 13:1-13 NKJV)

“So, follow after love,” Paul says.

Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love.

(I Corinthians 14:1a AMP)

### Question 6- “Do I really have a vision of Jesus? Do I really know Him?”

This last question seems almost incidental, but it’s where it all is. Oh, I can know a lot *about* Him. I can give you a lot of good answers to good questions. Some of us know so much that we know nothing at all. The word *know* really means—and you can look it up and verify it in this passage—to come to an experiential knowledge of truth. We spend so much time majoring on the minors, that sometimes we forget *Who* the major is.

Satan has three gospels for Christians: mind, emotion and will. He deals with experience, doctrine and application. All of them are good, but he wants you to get your experience at the center of your life. Paul had that problem in II Corinthians 12:1 and 2, and God had to send a thorn in his flesh to deal with his experience because pride got ahold of him.

Doctrine is one of the most important things we can pour into our lives, but I Corinthians 2:2 says that I don’t know anything among you except Christ crucified. In I Corinthians 8:1 it says that knowledge puffs up. That doesn’t mean we don’t learn, but it means that we learn enough to apply, and we apply what we learn. But, if all that we learn doesn’t give us a greater vision of Jesus, far better that we had not learned it at all.

What is God’s gospel?

Have a knowledge of God - Philippians 3:10.

Appropriate the life of God - Galatians 2:20.

Share the life of God - Ephesians 3:18.

That’s the gospel. And you and I may disagree and argue on the most Mickey Mouse of points. We can get into a discussion

## Six Questions to Ask

of eschatology. I can't even spell it, but I bet some of you can. There will be some pre-millennialists, some post-millennialists, and some a-millennialists. There will be some pre-tribs, mid-tribs, and post-tribs. There will be some Mickey Mouses and some Donald Ducks, and we can go round and round. But I'll tell you what, we can get to heaven and it may not happen just the way we thought it would because it's not that clear.

I can tell you tonight, I am a pre-trib, pre-millennialist, if that helps you any, but I don't think it makes a bit of difference. If God chooses to do it another way, I'm going to get so excited I won't be able to stand it. When I get to heaven, I'm not going to tap Jesus on the shoulder and say, "Why in the world didn't you do it my way?"

The same thing is true about so many other things. We get all caught up in the nitpicking and the nitty-gritty details. "Well, I believe this and you believe that." So what! I believe Jesus. Spiritual gifts—I'll take the credit for that one. I created a monster. Now, I still believe in spiritual gifts, but you notice, I haven't taught on it in about a year. Because what I found is people found out what they thought their spiritual gift was and they began to labor in it and major on it and it became their gospel. And people began to use it as excuses for why they did things. Can you imagine using something God gave you as an excuse? You say, "Well, I'm sorry. This was a gift from God, and it's got flaws."

The problem is, all we need is a little bit of a glimpse of something that we can make our god, and off we go into the sunset. It can be this or that doctrinal position, this or that belief. Throw it all away. Set it all aside. Learn it, study it, store it and follow it, in its right perspective.

I want to close tonight by asking you to do the one thing that I trust you will spend the rest of your life doing. Major on Jesus. Think about who He is. When was the last time you thought about who Jesus is? All of us can share in that. All of us can hold hands over that. Do you know who He is? He is God Incarnate. He is the King of kings. He is the Son of man. He is the Son of God. He is the Sinless One. He is the Perfect Sacrifice. He is everything. And He looked down from His throne in heaven, and the Father said, "Son, My people are lost. They need a Savior."

Philippians 2:6-8 tells us, He thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but He laid aside His robes of righteousness



## Six Questions to Ask

and made Himself nothing. He was found in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. That's our Jesus. How can we get caught up disputing, arguing or talking about nitpicking details, when we all know Him? Look what He has done.

When was the last time you climbed Mt. Calvary? How can we spend hours discussing things that may or may not be so, or may or may not be the way you or I believe? Then, all of a sudden, we look up together, grab each other's hand, and walk up to the top of Calvary, and it all fades into insignificance when we see the blood. Do you know where each of us would be tonight if it was not for that cross? Do you realize or ever stop to think that it's at Calvary?

Have you ever thought recently about what He is doing? Every time you sin, not every other time, or third time, or fifth time, but every time you and I sin, Jesus turns to the Father and says, "Forgive him. I paid for that." And the Father's wrath is turned away and He transmits the righteousness of Christ to us. He looks down and says, "Perfect!" You say, "Me, perfect? You, perfect? Why?" Because that's what Jesus is doing. How can we get caught up in any kind of confusion or discussion, when our Savior is up there making intercession for us continually day and night? He never leaves His post.

When was the last time you thought about what He is going to do? When was the last time you envisioned that day? Maybe tonight, all of sudden there will be a trumpet blast and all the saints who have ever lived—Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Episcopalians, all who have been born again. Charismatics, non-Charismatics, dreamers, visionaries, Navigators, Campus Crusaders—everybody will be caught up together to meet Him in the clouds.

You know what we will leave behind? All the rest of that stuff. Everything. We are going to forget who we were and where we were trained and we are going to look up there and see the clouds open and the Son of God seated at the right hand of the Father. And He is going to say, "Welcome home, children," as the song says. That's what He is going to do. How can we get caught up in anything else? Knowing that these things are yet to come, what manner of men ought we to be? What manner of women ought we

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to be? We should be holy and without blame before Him in love (II Peter 3:11).

When was the last time you remembered what He has promised us? What He has done? What He is doing? What He is going to do, and what He has promised us? He promised that one day there will be that beautiful feast in heaven, and you and I are going to be seated around that throne—for how long? Take a guess, and then multiply it times infinity. We have an hour or two, a day or two to be fussy and frustrated here on earth, but God has given us a lifetime in eternity to sit around the throne and worship.

Do you really have a vision of Jesus—who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, what He is going to do, and what He has promised? If you do, you are about there, because the hours and the days seem so long, but they're not. In the light of eternity, they are just a speck.

How is your vision? Do you really have a vision of the Great Commission? Of what love is? Of what the Body of Christ is? Of God's plan for your life? Do you really have a vision of Jesus? If not, guess what? He hasn't moved. He is right there waiting for you to look up.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
(Hebrews 12:1,2)

That's where we are going to be before long. I want to do two things. I want to tell all of you how much I love you, and how much I appreciate the chance for us to have this ministry together for these years. And I just want to praise God that you have come tonight. Your being here has meant so much.

I'm going to ask Wink to come and before we bow our heads in prayer, to lead us in a couple hymns, very softly, in an atmosphere of worship,

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His Name is Wonderful

His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything,  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

He's the great shepherd, the rock of all ages.  
Almighty God is He.  
Bow down before Him. Love and adore Him.  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face.  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Let's pray.

*Father, thank you for being who You are, for doing what You have done, and for loving us the way You do. We pause to tell You that we love You and we thank You for the privilege of being able to look at You and to allow Your love to be returned.*

*Give us a vision of Yourself in the days to come. And may all the glory, honor and praise always be given to Jesus.*

*In His name we ask it. Amen.*

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