



# Ten Questions from the King

**MARK CAHILL**

Author of the bestselling books:  
*One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven, One Heartbeat Away,*  
*The Watchmen, Paradise, Reunion, and The Last Ride.*

WITH OVER 1.7 MILLION BOOKS IN PRINT  
AROUND THE WORLD

*“This is Mark Cahill’s best book yet! It can motivate anyone of any age to witness to others. The stimulating questions throughout leave you thinking hard about how you are living your life. In Mark’s inimitable and conversational style, the reader learns true-life evangelism by taking their cues from the way Jesus Himself interacted with the lost and the religiously proud. This book is one you don’t want to miss.”* — **Dennis H., Carpenter**

*“Wow! These challenging questions that Mark Cahill pitches to believers in Jesus Christ are like fast balls over the plate. I was both seriously engaged and encouraged as Mark presented his thoughts about evangelism, which are drawn from his studies of Jesus’ interactions with the religious leaders, His disciples, and the common people during His world-changing ministry on Earth. Mark is a seasoned veteran at sharing the Gospel, and like a coach, he has a heart to train and strengthen fellow believers to reach the people around them for Jesus Christ. Mark’s book is a real-world playbook to equip us for big-league evangelism. We gotta hustle! Time is short!”* — **Cindy H., Promotional Sales**

*“This book is the best book on evangelism that I have ever read! Its focus is to keep an eternal perspective with every soul you meet and in every conversation you have. The simplicity of that, in itself, is convicting. I’m excited to put these ten questions from the Master of evangelism into practice and to see His great work carried out.”* — **Janet Z., Admissions Registrar**

*“Discipleship, Evangelism Training, and Faith Building are all rolled into this one book! Mark has used the premise of ten questions to challenge us all. As believers and followers of Jesus, this book helps us to remember that our purpose in God is continuing to dig into His Word and to live it out daily as it says in Jeremiah 33:3. For those considering who God is, this book will answer many questions and point to the Truth in every way!”* — **Lauri N., Home Educator**

*“This book demonstrates exactly how evangelism should be done – with the civility of asking questions! It’s amazing how simple questions can become powerful tools that open doors to giving out truth to others. As Mark says, ‘People have to think about eternal matters before they can be saved.’ How simple it is to ask, ‘Why do you believe what you believe?’ Asking questions takes all the pressure off of talking to others. I’m hoping my simple questions will become ‘pebbles in the shoes’ of the people I meet! Read this book! What are you waiting for?”*

– **Sally W., Business Owner**

*“The most thought-provoking book Mark has written yet! No matter where you are in your journey of faith, be prepared to be challenged. You will be confronted with topics that cannot be ignored and compelled to respond with a sense of urgency to life’s most important questions. A must read!”*

– **Dave F., Distributor**

*“Having come out of the false belief system of Mormonism, I found that few Christians were able to give reasons for their faith. This book exposes the traditions of men and explains the Christian life from the Bible. All Christians, especially our youth before leaving home, need to know what they believe and why they believe it, so they can be effective witnesses for Christ in the world.”*

– **Kathy S., Christian Educator**

*“The emphasis in this book – the questions that Jesus asked – makes this book thought-provoking and challenging. The application is clear, whether responding ourselves to the questions that Jesus asked or utilizing the same technique of asking questions in our witness. Asking questions ought to be a vital part of evangelism, and Mark Cahill has highlighted that very well!”*

– **Kristen N., Piano Teacher**

*“Insightful and engaging – an excellent study for everyone who loves truth!”*

– **Diana B., Computer Testing**

Sincere thanks to:

**Jesus Christ**

for being the best Question Asker and  
the best Question Answerer  
of all time.

You have given so many people  
throughout the ages  
a reason to live and  
a reason to die.

Thank you.  
See You real soon!

**Presented to:**





# Ten Questions from the King

By Mark Cahill

Copyright © 2017 by Mark Cahill.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means — electronic, mechanical, photographic (photocopying), recording, or otherwise — without prior permission in writing from the author.

ISBN 978-0-9891065-3-5

All Scripture verses cited are from the King James Version.

Editing, Layout, and Cover Design:

Brenda Nickel

Order additional copies at [www.markcahill.org](http://www.markcahill.org)  
or at any bookstore.

Also available in eBook format.

Printed in the United States of America

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Introduction</b>                                | 9   |
| <b>Chapter 1</b>                                   |     |
| Do You Have Major League Faith?                    | 21  |
| <b>Chapter 2</b>                                   |     |
| Is Jesus Your Cornerstone or Stumbling Stone?      | 37  |
| <b>Chapter 3</b>                                   |     |
| Are You Bringing People to Jesus?                  | 53  |
| <b>Chapter 4</b>                                   |     |
| What Is Stored Up in Your Heart?                   | 69  |
| <b>Chapter 5</b>                                   |     |
| Who Holds the Keys to Your House?                  | 85  |
| <b>Chapter 6</b>                                   |     |
| Are You Digging Deep?                              | 107 |
| <b>Chapter 7</b>                                   |     |
| Are You on a Search and Rescue Mission for Christ? | 125 |
| <b>Chapter 8</b>                                   |     |
| Are You Able to Pay the Price?                     | 147 |
| <b>Chapter 9</b>                                   |     |
| Whose Honor Are You Seeking?                       | 169 |
| <b>Chapter 10</b>                                  |     |
| Will You Take the Step of Faith?                   | 189 |
| <b>Endnotes</b>                                    | 204 |
| <b>Resources</b>                                   | 206 |





# Introduction

I love questions! Questions make you think. Good questions can get your synapses firing. Sometimes, a single question can snap you out of life's doldrums and get your mind moving in a whole new direction.

I once saw an article titled: *50 Questions That Will Free Your Mind*. The top ten questions on that list really made my wheels turn:

1. How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?
2. Which is worse, failing or never trying?
3. If life is so short, why do we do so many things we don't like and like so many things we don't do?
4. When it's all said and done, will you have said more than you've done?
5. What is the one thing you would most like to change about the world?
6. If happiness were the national currency, what kind of work would make you rich?
7. Are you doing what you believe in, or are you settling for what you are doing?
8. If the average human life span were 40 years, how would you live your life differently?
9. To what degree have you actually controlled the course your life has taken?
10. Are you more worried about doing things right, or doing the right things?<sup>1</sup>

The following statement also caught my attention: "Because sometimes asking the right questions is the answer."<sup>2</sup> I've found

## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

that, many times, the best thing we can do in a situation is to ask a single, good question. It can get everyone around us thinking. Not all questions need to be answered because, sometimes, the purpose of a good question is to just get us started in processing a new idea.



*God has given us the privilege of discovering the answers to the ultimate questions of life.*

Questions also help us to arrive at truth. One thing I always tell people is *TETE*: Test Everything and Test Everybody. If we would test whatever people say against the Scriptures, then it would be very, very easy to spot a false teacher. Another thing I say is *QEQE*: Question Everything and Question Everyone. If we wouldn't take *carte blanche* everything that others say as factual, but actually asked questions instead, then we would

arrive at truth more quickly and not be fooled into siding with error. Just because someone *says* something or a reporter *reports* something or a crime scene video *shows* something doesn't mean the information is accurate. If you will question everything and question everyone, then you can figure out what is really going on.

Now remember, the point of questioning isn't just to ask questions. That ends up being a waste of valuable time. We need to ask questions to find answers. God has given us the privilege of discovering the answers to the ultimate questions of life, which makes our journey on earth much more exciting.

*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.*

**Proverbs 25:2**

As I was studying the topic of questions, I found some very funny questions out there as well!

- Can you cry under water?
- How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?



## INTRODUCTION

- If money doesn't grow on trees, then why do banks have branches?
- Since bread is square, then why is sandwich meat round?
- Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only "a penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- How come we choose from just two people for President but from fifty for Miss America?
- Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school but they can in prison?
- Brain cells come and brain cells go, but why do fat cells live forever?
- How can you tell when you run out of invisible ink?
- Did Adam and Eve have navels?
- How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?
- If a chronic liar tells you he is a chronic liar, do you believe him?
- If all those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they all still working?
- If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?
- If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?<sup>3</sup>

Those of you who know me, know that I love a good laugh. Humor, done correctly, is one of God's great gifts to us. But there is a time for humor and a time for seriousness as well. As I was thinking about all of this, I wondered, *What are the best questions that have ever been asked?*

One person put together the following list of his ten greatest philosophical questions of all time:

1. What am I supposed to do?
2. How can we know anything?



## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

3. How do I know what is right or wrong?
4. Who am I?
5. Why all of this stuff and not some other stuff?
6. Why is there something rather than nothing?
7. What happens next?
8. What is the relationship between mind and body?
9. What is the meaning of life?
10. Does God exist?<sup>4</sup>

Many people are asking questions about their existence, and philosophy is not the place they want to turn to for answers. A lady named Cindy contacted the ministry one day. She told me that she had been sitting in a philosophy class at Chapman College one time, when the professor asked this question: “Why do you believe what you believe?” Cindy said this question

rocked her world. It hit her like a lightning bolt. She had been raised Christian, but after being asked this question, she really began to consider what it meant to be a Christian. So she pulled out her Bible and started reading and studying, sometimes up to five hours a day. She was shocked to discover how much she didn't know.

Her search for truth prompted her and her family to look for a church that preached about Jesus, although they had a hard time finding one. She was 20 years old when she first heard that question, and now at the age of 68, she has never, ever forgotten that single, profound question! When she saw the “What If?” tract that we offer, she loved all of the questions it poses.

In the Bible, we see a lot of questions being asked, but interestingly, when God asks a question, He already knows the answer. Many lawyers do the same thing in a courtroom to catch someone in a contradiction. Matter of fact, some lawyers are taught to never ask a question in a courtroom



*“Why do you believe what you believe?”*



## INTRODUCTION

unless they already know the answer! We aren't limited to the standards of an attorney, but we can ask questions of others when we already know the answer, too. We can ask questions to find out more information, to narrow down the discussion a bit, or even to put someone on the spot. Once we have their answers, then we can decide to ask further questions or shift the conversation in a different direction.

I was recently speaking to some college students at Camp Tejas in Texas. I noticed there was a Roman Catholic group there as well. So I walked over to a group of about ten of them, where some were sitting and others were standing around. I greeted them by saying, "Hello." Then I said, "I have a question for you. I want to go to Heaven. What must I do to get there?" Wow! I could tell instantly that this was going to be an intriguing encounter. One of the men, who was dressed like Friar Tuck, spoke only Spanish, so someone translated my question for him. He looked at me and shouted, "Be good!" Then a lady added, "Keep the Ten Commandments!" Her answer provided the perfect opening for me to walk the group through a few of the Ten Commandments. They realized pretty quickly that they had not kept them all. I explained that we are all guilty by the standard of those Ten Commandments and that confession can't help us when we stand before God. We need *forgiveness* of sins, which only Jesus can provide. I will never forget one of the ladies, Kathy, who didn't take her eyes off of me. She soaked up everything I had to say. They all said they liked to read, so I brought them some books at dinner time. All it took was a good question to draw out their opinions about salvation and then compare those beliefs against biblical truth.



---

*We can ask questions to find out more information, to narrow down the discussion a bit, or even to put someone on the spot.*

## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

In the LAX Airport one time, I was talking with a Sikh. He told me he has 8.4 million lives to live, and if he gets this life wrong—living as a human—then he has to cycle through 8.4 million lives again! But if he gets this final life in the cycle of progressing through all the different species correct, then he moves on. Typically, Sikhs believe they will blend back into the oneness of god. So I asked him, “Have you gotten this life right?” He looked at me with big eyes and said, “That is a great question!” Seemed simple to me. I imagine I would get a

little tired of living after 8.4 million lives! Since I definitely wouldn't want to go through all of those lives again, I would make sure to get this life correct. One simple question really made him think.

On a plane flight to Los Angeles, I was seated across the aisle from a guy who had a big bag filled with a ton of books! So I asked him, “Why do you have so many books?” I had no idea what door that simple question would open! He said

he was a college professor. As we continued chatting, it turned out that he was a Religious Studies professor who specialized in Judaism. So I asked him if he was Jewish. He told me that he was an atheist! My wheels started spinning. Then I asked him, “How do you teach the miracles of the Old Testament, like in Exodus?” He said he teaches them from all angles so the students can see them from all sides! Wow! He ended up telling me that he grew up Baptist but teaches at a Methodist college. We had a good, long talk. He eventually said that he considers himself an atheistic Jew. He was very open and said he loves to read, so I gave him a book. I had no clue where that simple question about his books would lead, but I am so glad I asked it!

One of my friends has said, “Well, anyone sensible wants the facts, unless, of course, they have ostrich syndrome!” I like



*“Anyone sensible wants the facts, unless, of course, they have ostrich syndrome!”*





## INTRODUCTION

that! So that is what a good question can do; it can take you to the point where you are sharing truth with others.

I pulled up at an intersection to make a left-hand turn one day, and the car next to me, which was stopped at the light, had eight circular Freemasonry emblems on the back of it. Since the driver made the fatal error of having his window rolled down, I asked him through our open windows, "Who is the Great Architect of the Universe?" Some Freemasons call him *GAOTU*. Alfred Pike of Freemasonry actually said that Lucifer is the god of Freemasonry. Let's just say that gentleman and I had an amazing conversation right through our open car windows! It was a kind and cordial conversation, and some good seeds were planted to get him thinking.

As I was driving out of my parents' neighborhood another day, I noticed a Muslim guy walking toward the mosque down the street. So I stopped, rolled my window down, and chatted with him for a few minutes. I ended up asking him, "Who is Isa? Who is Jesus?" He responded, "A prophet, not the Son of God." I asked him a good, clear question, and he had to give me a clear answer in return. As he walked away at the end of our conversation, he clenched his fist, looked at me, and said, "Mohammad!" That is his choice, even though it is an eternally wrong choice, but I know those questions made him think.

Another thing I always tell people is that either God is going to use you or Satan is going to use you, but you are going to get used. I want to make sure that God is doing the using of my life, and you want the same to be true for you. Asking good questions is a great tool that can allow God to use you mightily to contend for truth with the people you meet.



*Either God is going to use you or Satan is going to use you, but you are going to get used. I want to make sure that God is doing the using of my life.*




## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. **Jude 1:3**

I started a conversation with three graduate students from Northwestern University while in the O'Hare Airport one time. We continued to talk as we walked toward the plane. Just as we were about to board, the lady in the group who was Russian looked at me and said, "You ask the best questions!" I will never forget my encounter with them, and I am hoping she will never forget the questions that impacted her that day.

What a good question can do is put a pebble in your shoe. Have you ever had grains of sand or a small rock stuck in your

shoe? All you can think about is stopping to take off your shoe so you can dump that irritating little piece of creation out of it. That is what a good question can do, too. It makes you stop. It makes you wonder. It rumbles around in your head until you resolve it. This is why it is so important to ask questions and share truth with others as you interact with them.



*A good question makes you stop. It makes you wonder. It rumbles around in your head until you resolve it.*

Questions are also fun to solve because they make you think. They make you ponder. So where would we find the best questions that have ever been asked? Would we find them in philosophy classes on college campuses? In courtrooms? On the nightly news? Or perhaps in the writings of Solomon, who was the wisest man who ever lived?

And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. **1 Kings 4:30**

Even though Solomon was wise, a quick study of his life shows he wasn't perfect.

## INTRODUCTION

There has been one, and only one, sinless Person who has ever walked on planet Earth—Jesus Christ. The only Person we should go to for wisdom is the One who has enlightened the minds of men throughout the ages.

And did you know that as Jesus lived His life, He asked many, many questions? In fact, He asked 135 recorded questions in the New Testament! Why would He ask so many questions when He is all-knowing and already knows the answers? I believe the reason He asked questions was, very simply, to make people think—and not only to think, but to draw out their convictions. His questions were direct and put people on the spot. They had to either defend their position or walk away. I also believe He asked questions to bring people face to face with their beliefs, so He could give them truth.

After studying to put this book together, it is rather obvious that Jesus asked the best questions ever. By taking a closer look at some of the Master's fascinating questions, we might learn how to ask good questions as well.

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. **Psalm 119:130**

But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth. **Jeremiah 7:28**

We live in a time where truth seems to have perished from our schools and airwaves. What should Christians be doing about it? Let's learn about some of the questions asked by the King, so we can get more and more people seeking for truth in this lost and dying world.

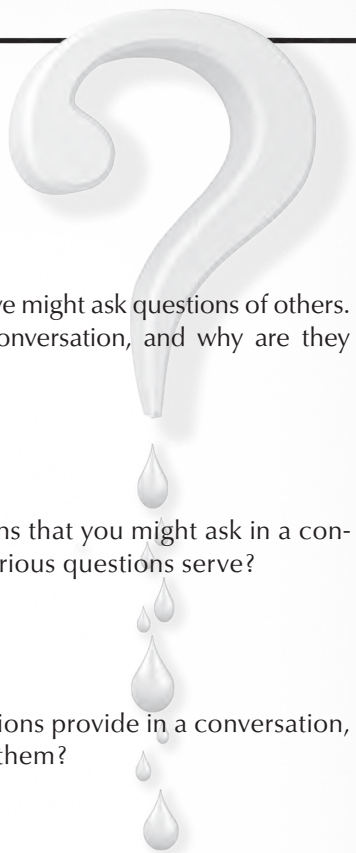


*I believe the reason Jesus asked questions was, very simply, to make people think—and not only to think, but to draw out their convictions.*



# Introduction

## *Group Discussion*



1. Name some of the reasons why we might ask questions of others. What can questions do for a conversation, and why are they important to ask?
2. Give some examples of questions that you might ask in a conversation. What purpose can various questions serve?
3. What value can rhetorical questions provide in a conversation, and why would we want to ask them?
4. How can a conversation benefit from asking clear and direct questions? What effect can a direct question have in producing a clear response?
5. What do the acronyms TETE and QEQE mean? How can leading someone to test their beliefs against the truth of Scripture help them arrive at the correct answer for salvation?

## INTRODUCTION - GROUP DISCUSSION

6. When you have a conversation with a lost person, what clues from your dialogue can prompt you to ask further questions? How might the use of logic and questions work together?
  
7. Name some of the places in your community where you can find and talk with unsaved people.
  
8. Now that you know the value of questions, what conversation openers will you use to begin a discussion with a lost person?
  
9. Come up with two or three excellent questions that would work well to keep conversations going with lost people.
  
10. What is holding you back from being a person that God can use today to tell someone about the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel?



## Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came into the coasts  
of Caesarea Philippi,  
he asked his disciples, saying,  
Whom do men say  
that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say *that*  
*thou art* John the Baptist:  
some, Elias; and others, Jeremias,  
or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them,  
But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said,  
Thou art the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.



# CHAPTER 1

## *Do You Have Major League Faith?*



### OPINIONS

**C**aesarea Philippi is the northernmost point in Israel that Jesus reached during His ministry. It was the apex, so to speak. Seems like a perfect place to ask the ultimate question: *Whom do men say that I am?*

Jesus knows He is the talk of the town. He knows people have opinions about Him. He also knows the disciples have been talking to them. So when Jesus asks His disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?” He wants to know from them what the people of Israel are saying about Him.

Everyone has opinions. They not only like to share them, but we like to hear them, too. We want to know what they think about their favorite sports team, food, vacation spot, or even their attitudes about their boss! Opinions are fascinating because they tell us a lot about someone’s preferences and beliefs.

We also want to know what people are saying about Jesus. What are they saying around the water cooler? What are they



## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

saying on Television, Twitter, and Facebook about Him? Even as people waste time on all of those gadgets and apps, they are still making comments about Him and His identity, and we want to know what they are saying.

So if you want to learn about someone's viewpoints, just ask them. Pretty simple. Most people like to chat and give their opinions, so ask them the question: *Who do you think Jesus is?* You will get all kinds of answers, and I guarantee it will spice up a conversation rather quickly!

Famous people throughout history have also had a variety of interesting opinions about Jesus as well:

"Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."

—**Napoleon Bonaparte**<sup>5</sup>

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."

—**Mahatma Gandhi**<sup>6</sup>

"Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue with that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now; I don't know which will go first—rock and roll or Christianity."

—**John Lennon**<sup>7</sup>

"The day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus by the Supreme Being in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter."

—**Thomas Jefferson**<sup>8</sup>

"I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history."

—**H. G. Wells**<sup>9</sup>



## CHAPTER 1

“Despite our efforts to keep him out, God intrudes. The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin’s womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked, ‘No Entrance’ and left through a door marked ‘No Exit.’”

—Peter Larson<sup>10</sup>

“I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems. On the cross, he forgave the people who crucified him. Jesus wanted us to be loving and forgiving.

I don’t know what makes people so cruel. Try being a gay woman in the Middle East—you’re as good as dead.”

—Elton John<sup>11</sup>

“As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and his religion, as he left them to us, is the best the world ever saw, or is likely to see; But I apprehend it has received various corrupting changes, and I have, with most of the present dissenters in England, some doubts as to his divinity. . .”

—Benjamin Franklin<sup>12</sup>

“As a child, I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. . . . No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.”

—Albert Einstein<sup>13</sup>

“I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin born, because the answer to that question would define history.”

—Larry King<sup>14</sup>

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Notice that Jesus is not asking His disciples what the religious folks are saying. He already knows what the Scribes and Pharisees think of Him. He is asking what the regular person thinks. He wants to know who the common folks say that He is. Too many times, we turn to religious figures



## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

on television and parrot what they say. Or we listen to some professor in college who spends an entire semester ripping apart the Bible. Jesus knows these people exist, but He wants to know what the regular folks think about Him. There is just something about the simplicity of common folks and their



*One thing I tell  
people is the world  
has questions  
and Christians  
have answers.*

opinions that Jesus wants to hear, but I want to hear the opinions of everyday people, too. I enjoy a good conversation with a regular person more than with a highfalutin person any day of the week.

Jesus' question also implies that the disciples were talking with and asking questions of the people, too. So ask yourself: Do you live your life this way? Do you hang out with others? Do you ask them questions? Do you answer their questions?

One thing I tell people is the world has questions and Christians have answers. But we have got to go and meet with these people who have questions. Every now and then, they wind up on our doorsteps, but most of the time, we have to cross the threshold of our front doors and go out into the world to find them. Since Jesus was a man of the people and the disciples were, too, then we need to be men and women of the people as well.

The people in Jesus' day probably had questions about whether He would call everyone to repentance, like John the Baptist. Would He keep doing miracles, like Elijah? Would He keep speaking the words of God, like Jeremiah and the other prophets? They were trying to figure Him out, which is always a good thing.

When Jesus asks about the opinions of the people, He also knows their viewpoints might carry the undertones of either honoring and respecting Him or perhaps dishonoring Him as well. The people really did not know Who was standing before them. Jesus was trying to open their eyes to see who He was





## CHAPTER 1

because if they realized that He was the fulfillment of their Scriptures, they could become His true and faithful followers all the way to the end.

### GOING PUBLIC

Jesus not only wants to know who the people say He is, but He wants to know who His disciples say He is, too. He is not ignorant of their beliefs, but He wants them to make a declarative statement. He wants them to publicly say what they believe. He wants it on the record! This is very important. We all have opinions, thoughts, and ideas, but we can keep those viewpoints hidden and locked away from public view. There are certain things that should never remain hidden. We should always proclaim the love we have for our spouse publicly. There is nothing wrong with bragging about your kids. They are your kids! We should also never, ever keep our spiritual beliefs hidden either. They should be open and public for everyone to see.

Whenever a supposedly famous person dies, many times I will google their name to find out about their spiritual beliefs. Then I look at their life to see if it lined up with their profession of faith. The late rock star Prince was raised Seventh Day Adventist but later became a devout Jehovah's Witness. At one point in his career, he purportedly said, "Everything is about Jesus and the Bible." What a fascinating statement, but did he actually live that way? Did his recorded music and concerts drive people to find out about the Creator of the universe?

Another interesting aspect of stating something publicly is its effect of actually strengthening what you believe. It causes your faith to grow stronger. Why? You have declared it. People know where you stand, and now you have to back it up with



---

*Stating something publicly has the effect of actually strengthening what you believe.*



## TEN QUESTIONS FROM THE KING

your life! Again, this is one reason why people stay silent on many major topics. They know that when they say something publicly, they have to live it publicly as well. But, of course, that is what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to never be ashamed of Him, either in our words or in our actions.

### SIDING WITH TRUTH

Jesus also asks His disciples, “Whom say ye that I am?” to find out which side of the fence they are on. This question is one that everyone will have to answer at some point in their existence, either here or on the other side. There is no avoiding this one, and the disciples couldn’t avoid it either.



---

*The true Christ will always cause division because people must decide which side of the fence they are on.*

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

**Luke 12:51**

Remember that Jesus Christ brings division. He knows that not everyone likes Him. Not everyone wants to come to Him, obey Him, or surrender to Him. The true Christ will always cause division because people must decide which side of the fence they are on.

So when Jesus asks this question of His disciples, it becomes much more personal. No hiding out or sitting on the sidelines. Jesus asks a question and wants an answer. It’s *put-up or shut-up* time, as they say.

Keep in mind that the disciples had an intimate relationship with Jesus. They were with Him day in and day out. They hung out with Him and watched Him up close. Would their answers be the same as the people who observed Him from a distance? Had their closeness to Him led them to a different conclusion?

How about you? Has your knowledge of the Lord become more intimate through the years, or have you been sidelined





## CHAPTER 1

in your walk of faith? Are you hiding your Christian walk from others, or are you living a bold and public life of faith in Jesus Christ?

### THE SPOKESMAN

Jesus asks this question of the group, but it is Peter who responds. There is a time to stand up and speak up. There is a time to let your beliefs be heard and to not blend in with the shadows. Are you standing up in those moments, or are you shrinking back from your duty to confess Christ?

Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. **Acts 5:20**

When Peter came out in the open and publicly declared that Jesus is the Christ, he was pointing out the divinity of Jesus. Jesus is God incarnate. He is God who has taken on human flesh. This is a huge point. Satan gives us a lot of false messiahs out there, but you need the real One, who, of course, is God in the flesh.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. **1 Timothy 3:16**

I was once voted to be the foreman of a jury, and when it came time to present the verdict, I knew I was speaking for the group. Before leaving the jury room, I asked each juror if they could affirm to the judge that the defendant was guilty, if they were asked to stand up and do so. I wanted to make sure everyone was convinced of the verdict. So when we all walked into the courtroom, I had no problem giving that verdict to the judge because I knew I was backed up by eleven other people.



*There is a time to stand up and speak up. There is a time to let your beliefs be heard and to not blend in with the shadows.*

