

Coach House Church BEACONS

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

21ST JANUARY 2021

Last Sunday's we started an Alpha course at church. I had heard about this course before but I never had a chance to experience it myself. It's interesting as it makes you think about questions that you never realised you had or never thought about before. I'm giving you just an example : What makes you happy ? Or what would you ask God if you had a chance?

Curiosity and questioning is part of our human nature; it's part of our design. Because God created us in his image we are able to ask questions and be creative. Civilisation and technology is what it is today because people asked questions and sought answers.

And what's more, our creator does not want us to just take things for granted, he wants us to ask questions and investigate, to be curious.

You don't have to believe me when I'm telling you this. Look into history and into writings from the past. Of course, I'm talking about the Bible. The Old Testament of the Bible consists of mostly historical books which tell us about the ways in which God interacted with people through the ages.

Even in the olden days, when knowledge was not so readily available like it is today, people had questions for which they sought answers. Let's look at some of these as recorded in scripture :

In my last beacon we looked at King Saul - before he was anointed as king he had to go and look for his father's donkeys and because he could not find them, he went to ask God where the donkeys were. Now Saul couldn't speak directly to God so he needed the help of a seer, that is, someone who God had anointed for that purpose. You find this account in 1 Samuel 9. I'm telling you he got his answer.

Another man with a question was Gideon, let's read about him :
"When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not

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sending you?" "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."
Judges 6:12-15

Ok. He had more than just one question, He had a whole series of them. If you carry on reading about Gideon from Judges 6 onwards, you will find out that he asked not only questions, but he asked for signs as well.
And God answered them all and give him assurance.

When God told his friend Abraham that He was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham had a series of questions himself. Not only that but Abraham then haggled with God. You can read the account of this in Genesis chapter 18
In the New Testament, during Jesus' life, many people had questions for him. For example: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18) This is the young rich man who's heart was set on his riches .

Then, Nicodemus had a question : "How can someone be born when they are old? Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" (John 3:4)

What I'm trying to say with all these examples is that no matter where in life you find yourself, if you are searching for God or if you have already found him, and if you have questions, don't be afraid to ask them. Go straight to the source of all understanding and wisdom go straight to God and ask him all your questions. Just as he answered all the questions in the olden days of all people that went to him and also in the new Testament through Jesus, today he will answer all your questions. In Isaiah 1:18 God invites you to chat, it says this "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord... it goes on talking about something else however, we can see here that God is willing to dialogue with mankind. A two way conversation.

Don't get discouraged if you don't get an answer straight away, have faith and persevere with your question; here, another verse comes to mind : "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: Matthew 7:7 .

If you wonder if there is a God and what is He like, join us on the Alpha course. You can find the details on our website .

Let me close with this verse : "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Lord I'm praying for those who are seeking for the truth. Lord I pray that you would guide them in their search . Allow them Lord to find you. I also pray for the ones that have found you and have questions. Lord show them you true nature. Lord you are love and you are good all the time .



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