

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 3, 2019**

**THEME: "Questions People Asked: How?"  
GETTING ANSWERS**

**Sunday ..... Read James 1:1-5**

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask..."* One of the best ways to increase our learning is to ask questions, especially if we are asking someone who can give the best answers! As a former teacher in a public high school for many years, I must say the I very much appreciated those students who would ask questions to gain further clarification! I am so glad that God has included in His Holy Word the questions that people were willing to ask in order to get answers to those things that were not clear to them and perhaps even confusing. I have to think the questions they asked helped many people other than themselves, and the fact they are recorded means we can have the benefit or the answers given to them. This is especially valuable in cases where the questions were addressed to our Lord, and we have the luxury of hearing His responses! In our Bible reading for today, believers are admonished to ask questions in areas where they lack wisdom. Obviously, God wants people to ask Him for wisdom so they have a clear understanding of what He wants us to think and how we should act. The fact that God advises us to ask would seem to indicate that He expects there will be time when we are unsure, so we do not have to feel guilty about not knowing something. The only thing that would be wrong if we are uncertain would be not to ask. If we don't ask, we will continue to be uncertain; that is not what God wants. Asking questions is a sign of intelligence, not of ignorance. Not asking is ignorant. I mean, if someone can clear up confusion, not asking them for clarity is crazy!

**THOMAS' QUESTION**

**Monday ..... Read John 14:1-10**

*"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not wither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"* I am even today so glad that Thomas was willing to speak up and pose the question that he did to our Lord! They were all troubled about that which the Lord Jesus had just shared with them: that He would be leaving them. I guess they were greatly troubled in that they had left jobs and careers to follow Him. They had become totally reliant upon Him and probably could not imagine what it would be like without Him. Sensing their dismay, Jesus mentioned that the reason He would be leaving them was to go back to heaven to prepare a place for them in "His Father's house." He assured them that He would come back again to take them to heaven. Then Jesus told them something that Thomas, and probably others, questioned: Jesus told them that they knew where He was going and that they knew how to get there. We know His comment confused Thomas by the way he responded: "we don't know where you are going and we certainly don't know how to get there." If Jesus told them they knew, then we can be sure they did know, but they didn't realize they knew. How could that be? They believed Jesus had come down from heaven, so they believed there was a heaven. They knew from being with Jesus that He was the Christ sent by God to be the Savior of the world, so they knew the One that could get them to heaven, so they did know where Jesus was going and how to get there. Jesus proceeded to make it very clear in one simple statement: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by me."* Praise God for Thomas' question and the answer Jesus gave!

**MARY'S QUESTION**

**Tuesday ..... Read Luke 1:26-34**

*"Then Mary said to the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"* Mary's calling in life was to be the mother of the Son of God! Jesus would be miraculously conceived in her womb. He would not be the son of her husband-to-be, but the Son of God! Yes, Jesus would be raised in Joseph's home, but would have already been conceived before their marriage. God could not wait for the marriage union for His Son to be born of man, because the Savior of the world had to be free of the sin nature inherited by all babies born of man and woman. If Jesus were going to pay the penalty of sin for sinners, He had to be free of sin; a miraculous conception was urgent! This news that the angel brought to Mary was beyond her ability to comprehend; hence her question:

"How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The angel explained that the Holy Spirit would miraculously come upon her, and the same God who created Adam formed that baby in her womb. Mary yielded and we have a Savior! **NICODEMUS' QUESTION**

**Wednesday..... Read John 3:1-6**

"Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" How about one of the Pharisee leaders coming to Jesus that night because he was so impressed with what he had seen. Give Nicodemus credit! The Pharisees as a whole had rejected Jesus and were His chief adversaries. Not so with Nicodemus! He asked for a private conference, and Jesus complied. Jesus got right to the point, and what He said confused this brilliant man: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Being a Pharisee, Nicodemus' whole mindset was that adherence to law was the ticket to heaven, at least according to the teaching of these manmade doctrines. His response to the statement of Jesus prompted a question, a question that proved that his thinking was on the human level and limited to the physical world: proof itself of a dead spirit. He wondered how a person could get back into his mother's womb and be born again. Well, Jesus was talking spiritual truth, to which the natural man is blinded. Jesus went on to explain the spiritual birth to regenerate the dead spirit with which all humans are born. That regeneration places a person in the family of God. How is a person born again? The explanation is in John 1:12-13: "But as many as received Him, to them gave he the power to be called the sons of God, who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Those who have repented of sin and have invited the Lord Jesus into their hearts have been born into the family of God!

### **PETER'S QUESTION**

**Thursday ..... Read Matthew 18:21-35**

"Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Seven times?" Peter's question has to do with human interrelationships, very important! Jesus had just mentioned about the problems that come up between people, where someone offends another person. Let's face it; it happens all the time, even among believers, and especially among believers where the devil tries hard to create problems. Well, Jesus gives us the strategy for dealing with strained relationships: approach the offender privately and work things out. In other words, do like God, our heavenly Father: have a heart of forgiveness! Keep it quiet, don't share with others. Minimize the problem! Broadcasting problems is playing into the hands of the enemy, who is trying to divide the flock! Well, Peter got it, but wondered how patient should we be: How many times should I forgive? Jesus' answer, I have to believe, was not what Peter wanted to hear: "Seventy times seven." Well, by that time, we would lose count; so I guess what Jesus was telling us is that we, like Him, should always have a heart of forgiveness! That, according to the teaching of Ephesians 4:30-32 that we refrain from bitterness, is a key to having the Spirit power to be the light of our world.

### **ELITISTS' QUESTION**

**Friday ..... Read John 9:1-10**

"Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?...Then said they unto him again, What did he to thee? How opened he thine eyes?" In this passage showing the power of God even over blindness, we learn some special things about God, and about His adversaries. What a shame from a human viewpoint that this individual was born blind. But, as it turns out, God had something wonderful in mind: He would use that blindness to perform a great miracle. Judgmental humans blamed the baby's blindness on the sins of the parents: wrong! Jesus mentioned that the blindness was permitted to reveal the power of God. When Jesus restored his sight, the academic and religious elitists stepped in and asked the blind man how his sight was restored. He gave all glory to Christ, not what the elitists wanted to hear. They threw the blind man out of their company rather than become followers of Jesus: a terrible decision with eternal consequences! I find it fascinating and even thrilling to see that Jesus took the initiative to seek out that man to have him become a true believer. Notice John 9:35: "When Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him..." Yes, Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost?" Should we not do the same?

### **GODLY WISDOM**

**Saturday..... Read I Corinthians 2:5-14**

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." The fact that God chose people of ages ago to put His thinking into writing enables us to have Divine wisdom; we can understand things that are beyond the ability of human minds, even the greatest of thinkers. Apart from His Divine revelation as recorded in the Bible, we would be left to human conjecture for an explanation of things for which the human mind is incapable. There are those who have tried to explain things beyond their ability, so they had to come up with

conjecture, not absolute fact. That is why this thing called evolution contrived by Charles Darwin on the origin of things is called a theory. No matter how it is framed, it remains a theory manufactured in the mind of a man who, we know, was not there at the beginning of the human race. It is fiction that will never be fact! Now we are aware that many in the field of science seem to have accepted it as plausible; but their false conclusions have been exposed by God with this word of caution in I Timothy 6:20: "*O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science, falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith.*" In the big picture, Jesus emphasized in John 8:44 that the devi is the "*father of lies.*"