

There are many questions that can be asked by people in their attempt to understand the Way of the Kingdom of God. The Teacher was asked many questions during His ministry, but many of those were asked in an attempt to trap Him so that He would look bad and lose His power over the people. In our ministry, we as His disciples also were asked such questions, but we did not have the wisdom of God's Son to answer. Truly, the Spirit guided us, but we were still greatly lacking in our responses.

Typical questions were like these:

“if God is Good and All-Powerful, why is there suffering...”;

“Why did God choose such a lowly birth for the Messiah?”

“Why did the Messiah not bring Israel back to prominence as a nation over the Gentiles?”

“Why would the Messiah have to suffer and die if God is in control?”

“Why does God let my child have seizures that throw himself into the fire?¹”

“Why did God let my only child, my son, die?²”

But not even Jesus answered questions in a way that revealed everything, especially because of the limited mind of man. We know that His ways are past understanding³, so we are incapable of comprehending the true expanse of God. The Great Teacher talked about two issues that represented questions He knew were being thought by those around Him:

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”⁴

The issues centered on the evil of men and suffering from natural disasters. Jesus gave no explanation, but only said that the calamities were not due to the relative guilt of the victims as compared to others. Then He spoke of the need to repent or perish, not aimed only at His audience, but to all mankind. And He did not give specific answers, but He gave Himself to save us, to free us from our sins⁵. But many cannot understand this at all⁶.

In our work to promote the Kingdom, we would try to explain the magnitude of God and His creative powers, but realized that the complete and total truth is beyond us. We therefore failed to convince many who were not able to see through the smokescreen regularly put up by the Adversary. So, many times with some frustration I ended up saying something like, “The total truth is complicated – **but I know real love when I see it!**”

We all resolved make the fact that Jesus Christ was crucified for us the absolutely critical point of any discussion⁷, for there it is not possible to have a greater love than this⁸. Though mankind had turned away from God, His Son came to us to save us⁹. It is truly the Greatest Story Ever Told¹⁰.

We stand (or kneel) before God in His marvelous glory, with that of the power of His creation overshadowed by that of His love for us. We must be like a modern Job, who also didn't understand everything they needed to know about God, but who realized the absolute

righteousness of God and would not deny Him¹¹. It cannot be explained completely in human terms, or described in words, yet is so true and beautiful^{12,13}.

Though God wants to fill our minds to the highest level of understanding¹⁴, we do not have enough capacity (in this life) to accept the full measure of God. But we are capable of understanding how great His Love is, and that is all that matters for the present. And so even in my weakness, I pursue God with all of my strength.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
1 John 4:10

1. See Matthew 17:14ff
2. Luke 7:11ff
3. Romans 11:33, "His ways are past understanding," (from Job 36:26 and 37:5)
4. Luke 13:1-5
5. "God did not give answers; God gave himself, to save us, to free us from our sins."
Madeleine L'Engle, Penguins and Golden Calves
6. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff. "... the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing"
7. 1 Corinthians 2:2 – "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."
8. John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
9. Romans 5:8, "... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
9. a bow to the book title by Fulton Oursler
11. "I do not purport to understand how this can be, but I know that I cannot deny it." John Polkinghorne, The Way the World Is
12. "I don't think you can explain how Christian faith works either. It is a mystery. And I love this about Christian spirituality. It cannot be explained, and yet it is beautiful and true. It is something you feel, and it comes from the soul." Donald Miller
13. "I think Christian spirituality is like jazz music. I think loving Jesus is something you feel. I think it is something very difficult to get on paper. But it is no less real, no less meaningful, no less beautiful." Donald Miller
14. Ephesians 3:17-19, "... I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."