

Research Questions for Communion with Christ

RQ(1) Name the occasions where God used (or “worked with”) human sin to accomplish the divine purpose?

- Joseph, and the sin of Potiphar’s wife
- Midwives in Egypt, who lied to allow children to live
- Rahab, who lied to save the Israelite spies
- Joseph’s brothers selling him into slavery
- Saul’s sins that led to his rejection
- Judas, who betrayed Christ
- Slander against Christ, etc
- Rejection of the Jews led to the full plan: inclusion of the Gentiles

RQ(2) Name two times when there was a burst of miracles after a Godly silence of 400 years.

- Plagues of Egypt (for harm)
- Miracles of Christ (for healing)

RQ(3) Name those who wrote the law on stones.

- God wrote the law on the tablets (Exodus 32:15-16)
 - did Moses write on the stones after breaking the first set?
see (Exodus 34:2, 4, 28)
 - Moses commanded that the people write the law on the stones of the altar on Mount Ebal (Deuteronomy 7:1-9)
 - Joshua wrote the law stones on Mount Ebal (Joshua 8:30-35)
- Also, those who wrote it on any medium
- Moses wrote a copy of the law for the Levites (Deuteronomy 31:9)
 - every king was commanded to write the law (Deuteronomy 17:18)

RQ(4) Name the great national renewals of the Old Testament covenant in the Bible.

- Joshua at Mount Ebal (Joshua 8:30-35)
 - Joshua at Shechem (Joshua 24)
 - Josiah (2 Kings 23)
 - Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8)
- Also, the Day of Atonement should have been this, but it did not sustain the commitment

RQ(5) When did someone ask to communicate in a language so that others could not understand?

2 Kings 18:26 (When Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem, Eliakim the palace administrator and others asked the envoy to speak in Aramaic, not Hebrew, so that the people around them would not be able to understand)

RQ(6) What parable is only recorded in the gospel of Mark?

- The parable of the seed growing secretly, Mark 4:26-29
- Also, perhaps Mark 13:34, the watchful doorkeeper

RQ(7) Name the two parables that considered the prospect of begging.

- Parable of unjust steward or dishonest manager (Luke 16:3)
- Parable of Prodigal Son (not directly stated; Luke 15)
- Rich man and Lazarus (Lazarus begging at gate; Luke 16:19-31)
- 10 virgins (5 were begging oil; Matthew 25:1-13)
- Good Samaritan (could have been begging for help; Luke 10:25-37)

RQ(8) What was the first thing that God said was not Good?

- It is not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18)

RQ(9) What are the parables do Matthew, Mark, and Luke have in common?

- Sower
- Wicked Husbandman
- Mustard Seed

Notes on the Parables, R.C. Trench

RQ(10) Name the parables that dealt with Jesus' profession: carpentry or building.

- Houses built on sand and rock (Matthew 7:24-27)
- Unprepared builder (Luke 14:28-30)
- Building bigger barns (Luke 12:18)
- Building a watchtower (Matthew 21:33)

Other possible ideas:

- man borne by four (Luke 5:19)
- assessment of the buildings in Jerusalem (Matthew 24:1)
- the cross
- building mansions for us (John 14:2)

RQ(11) Name the times that Jesus asks someone what they were discussing or arguing about, or doing, as they walked along.

- The two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:17)
- The disciples arguing about who was the greatest (Mark 9:33)
- Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9)

Honorable Mention:

- Philip stopping eunuch in his chariot

RQ(12) Name times where people tried to prevent Jesus from interacting with someone.

- disciples; Samaritan woman? (John 4)
- disciples; children (Matthew 19:13)
- Satan (Matthew 4)
- disciples, concerning blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:47)
- Herod, who killed all the infants trying to keep Jesus from growing up to be king
- Satan, during the temptations tried to get Jesus off the track of being our Savior
- disciples; tried to stop Jesus from going to Jerusalem (John 11:8)
- friends of Jarius, who thought Jesus was too late (Luke 8:49)
- friends of centurion, who thought he was not worthy (Luke 8:1-10)

RQ(13) Name times when two coins were used for good.

- The Good Samaritan; Luke 10:35
- The Widow with two mites; Luke 21:2
- The man with two talents;
- Peter's coins(s) to pay the temple tax for himself and Christ?

RQ(14) In how many of Paul's letters did he encourage "imitating" or "following" him?

- 1 Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore I urge you to imitate me."
- also, 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."
- Galatians 4:12 "... become like me..."
- Philippians 3:17 "Join with others in following my example"
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6 "You became imitators of us and of the Lord"
- 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 "you ought to follow our example..."

 We did this... to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate."

Also consider [PDE]: Peter's commentary on Paul's letters (2 Peter 3:16); Though Paul's letters were difficult, we should still follow...

RQ(15) Name the times that Saul tried to kill his own son Jonathan.

- when he ate the honey after charging the Philistines and causing a great victory (1 Samuel 14:24ff)
- when David was not present at the feast (1 Samuel 20:33)

Ultimately, his actions caused the death of Jonathan (not on purpose) in the final battle with the Philistines.

RQ(16) Name those in the Bible who put words in other people's mouths.

- Moses was asked to put God's words in Aaron's mouth (Exodus 4:15)
- God will put words into the mouth of a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:18)
- Joab put words into a woman's mouth to get David to bring back Absalom (2 Samuel 14:3)
- God put words into Isaiah's mouth (Isaiah 51:16 and 59:21)
- God put words into Jeremiah's mouth (Jeremiah 1:9)

Also, remember that God put words in the mouth of Balaam's donkey. (PDE)□

RQ(17) Name times when Saul (son of Kish) was involved with torn robes.

- 1 Samuel 15:27 (Saul tore Samuel's robe; Amelekite war)
- 1 Samuel 24:4 (David cut off the corner of Saul's robe)

RQ(18) Name the times that the Bible describes someone doing something seven times.

- Whoever killed Cain would suffer vengeance seven times (Gen 4:15)
- Jacob bowed before Esau seven times (Gen 33:3)
- Priests sprinkled blood seven times on many occasions
- Israelites marched around Jericho seven times (Joshua 6:15)
- Elijah asked his servant to check for rain seven times (1 Ki 18:43)
- Naaman was asked to dip in the Jordan seven times (2 Ki 5:10)
- The boy Elisha was healing sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 2 Kings 4:35
- Seven times a day praising God (Ps 119:164)
- If a righteous man falls seven times, he will get back up (Pr 24:6)
- Peter asked if he should forgive someone seven times (Mt 18:21)
- John writes seven letters to the seven churches (Revelation 1-2)

RQ(19) Name Kings who acted as priests of God as well (successfully or unsuccessfully).

- Melchizedek (King of Salem: successful); Gen 14:18
- Saul (King of all Israel: not successful and was punished); 1 Sam 13:9
- Uzziah (King of : not successful and was given leprosy); 2 Chr 26:17-18
- Christ (ultimate high priest: successful); Hebrews

RQ(20) Who said that they could only say what God told them to?

- Balaam (Num 22:38)
- Micaiah (2 Chr 18:13)

Honorable Mention

- Peter (Acts 5:29); after preaching Christ they told the authorities that they could must obey God rather than men

- Christ (John 7:17); he speaks the will of God
- God speaking through Aaron for Moses
- When Jesus sent the apostles out (Matthew 10:19)

It was the prophets' job to speak only the Word of God; but there were those who tried to pervert that Truth.

RQ(21) What king of Judah made machines of war that could hurl large stones?

- Uzziah, 2 Chronicles 26:15

Many kings had war engineers; Leonardo DaVinci was one

RQ(22) Name the parables that refer to ten items.

- Talents and cities
- Widow's coins
- virgins and their lamps

RQ(23) Who does the Bible say saw God in Heaven?

- Jacob, Genesis 28:10ff; stairway to heaven, angels & God at the top
- Micaiah, 1 Kings 22:19, 2 Chronicles 18:18; on a throne
- Isaiah, Isaiah 6:1; on his throne
- Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1:1; vision of God with heavens opened
- Stephen, Acts 7:55; with Christ at His right hand
- John, Revelation; saw many things

Also,

- Christ claimed that his accusers would see Him seated at the right hand of God and coming on clouds of heaven, Matthew 26:64

"no one has seen God"; but these were visions of a representation

RQ(24) Name the women who "broke rules or conventions" in an attempt to have children.

- Sarah; Genesis 16 (used Hagar, the handmaiden)
- Lot's daughters; Genesis 19 (got their father drunk and lay with him)
- Rachel and Leah; Genesis 29 - 30 (used their handmaidens)
- Leah; Genesis 30 (traded mandrakes for an extra turn)
- Tamar; Genesis 38 (set up as a prostitute with Judah)

Note that all of these cases related to the families of Abraham (Lot) and Jacob (Joseph's wives and Judah's daughter-in-law)

RQ(25) Name the times a broken or destroyed yoke is mentioned.

- Genesis 29:37-41; Esau would eventually break Jacob's yoke
- Leviticus 11:13; God broke the yoke of Egypt over the Israelites
- Isaiah 9:4; God shattered the yoke of oppression on Israel
- Isaiah 10:27; broken; representing an oppressive nation
- Isaiah 58:6; God asks that we break every yoke (of the oppressed)
- Jeremiah 2:20; the Israelites broke the yoke of service to God
- Jeremiah 5:5; same as above
- Jeremiah 28:2, 4; God promised to break the yoke of the king of Babylon
- Jeremiah 28:10, 11; the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it, claiming that God would break the yoke of Babylon
- Jeremiah 30:8; God promised to break the yoke of the oppressors
- Ezekiel 30:18; God will break the yoke of Egypt
- Ezekiel 34:27; God will break the yoke of oppressors
- Nahum 1:13; God will break the yoke of Nineveh

Note: Matthew 11:30; For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

RQ(26) What is called "the span of a king's life", or "the days of one king"? (how many years)

- 70 years

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. Psalm 90:10

RQ(27) Name the times a yoke of oxen were butchered.

- 1 Samuel 11:7; Saul took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel."
- 2 Samuel 24:22; Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever pleases him and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.
- 1 Kings 19:21; So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

RQ(28) What would number so few that a child could write them down?

- Trees (Isaiah 10:19)

RQ(29) Name David's main interactions with the members of Saul's family. Saul - brief description of general interaction; Jonathan - etc

- 1) Saul: gratitude, blessed by his music, but jealous, and wanted to kill
 - 2) Jonathan: promised love until death; love greater than that of women
 - 3) Merab: Saul promised his oldest daughter, but did not let him marry her
 - 4) Michal: love, sacrificed to save him, separation, forced, despised at last
 - 5) Ishboseth: rival for the throne; David killed his killers
 - 6) Mephiboseth: lame, David cared for him; there was controversy, but loyalty
 - 7) those relatives he had to execute for the revenge of the Gibeonites
- David never showed any ill will towards any of Saul's families

RQ(30) Who thought it would be a sin not to pray for someone?

Samuel, 1 Samuel 12:22-23;

For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. 23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you.

RQ(31) What king prayed for God to counter or confuse advice given to his son?

- Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness." 2 Samuel 15:31
- Perhaps Solomon should have prayed that his son Rehoboam's young advisors would not be taken
- God of Confusion? think of the Tower of Babel

RQ(32) When were slaves set free by the Israelites, and then enslaved again?

- Jeremiah, Jeremiah 34:8-20

The word came to Jeremiah from the Lord after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves. Everyone was to free their Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Hebrew in bondage. So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage. They agreed, and set them free. But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.

- PDE alternate thought: Luke 11:24-25; the evil spirit that leaves a man, goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it; it returns to the house it left, finds it swept clean an in order and then it goes and takes seven spirits more wicked than itself to go in and live there.

RQ(33) Who told those Jews who were carried away into captivity to pray for the city of their exile?

- Jeremiah, Jeremiah 29:7

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

RQ(34) What leader spoke out against Solomon's sin for marrying foreign wives? Nehemiah, Nehemiah 13:26; Note that this is after the captivity

RQ(35) [PDE taught class]

RQ(36) Name the kings that hid themselves.

- Five Amorite kings fled and hid in the cave at Makkedah (Joshua 10:16).
- Saul hid in the baggage (1 Samuel 10:22)
- David hid in a field, to await word from Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:24)
- David hid in the strongholds at Horesh (1 Samuel 23:19, 1 Samuel 26:1)
- Ahaziah was hiding in Samaria when Jehu's men found him; Jehu killed him (2 Chronicles 22:9)
- Joash son of Ahaziah was hidden when Athaliah killed all of his brothers (2 Kings 11:2, 2 Chronicles 22:11)
- Jesus was hidden in Egypt when he was a child (Matthew 12:13)
- Kings in general (Revelation 6:15)

RQ(37) Name those who were regarded as a vine.

- Joseph (Genesis 49:22)
- Moab (Jeremiah 48:32)
- Israel (Ezekiel 19:10, Hosea 10:1)
- Jesus, with branches (John 15:5)

Honorable mention: Egypt in the Song of Moses (in a bad sense); Deuteronomy 32:32-33

RQ(38) Name kings who acted crazy.

- David in the presence of the Philistine king Achish (1 Samuel 21:12-15)
- Jehu drove a chariot like a madman (2 Kings 9:20)
- Nebuchadnezzar, losing his senses for 7 years (Daniel 4)
- Jesus was thought to be out of His mind (Mark 3:20)

Did anyone else appear crazy? the prophet who anointed Jehu was called a madman (2 Kings 9:1-12)

RQ(39) Name those who would have eaten the crumbs or scraps or leftovers.

- Lazarus (Luke 16:19-21)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- Syrophenician woman - metaphorically (Matthew 15:27)
- Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off have picked up scraps under my table. Now God has paid me back for what I did to them." (Judges 1:7) [PDE: what did he do with 140 thumbs and toes?]

Similar or leading to: There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a quarter of a cab of seed pods for five shekels. (2 Kings 6:25)

Also, the command to allow gleaning in the fields for the poor and outcast: Ruth was a gleaner

RQ(40) Name the times that Jesus was accused by the Pharisees of associating with sinners. Matthew 9:10-11, Mark 2:15-16, Luke 5:29ff;

--> "Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice" Matthew 11:10-25, Luke 7:33ff;

--> contrast with John the Baptist Luke 15:1ff;

--> the three parables of the lost

RQ(41) Name the times someone successfully argued with Jesus. (from Rebecca Stevens via PDE)

- Syrophenician woman; her daughter was healed after Jesus' initial dismissal of her request (Matthew 15:27)
 - Jesus' mother at the wedding at Cana convinced Him to solve the wine problem (John 2:1ff)
- Both times it was a mother who prevailed!

RQ(42) Find the passages that link swords and plowshares.

- Forward: Isaiah 2:4; They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
- Backward: Joel 3:10; Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, "I am strong!"
- Forward: Micah 4:3; They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

RQ(43) Who discussed taking the ark of the covenant into battle?

- Joshua told his men to carry the ark around Jericho (Joshua 6);
- Eli's sons took the ark into battle in a very critical time (1 Sam 4);
- David would not, when he was chased out of Jerusalem by Absalom (2 Sam 15:25);

RQ(44) Name the animals used in Christ's lessons and parables.

- fish (Matthew 4:18-22 fishers, Matthew 17:27 tax in fish's mouth, Matthew 13:47-50; feeding the multitudes, Matthew 14:9); Jonah (Matthew 12:40)
- camel through the eye of a needle (Matthew 19:23-24)
- lamb/sheep, goats (Good Shepherd John 10:14; Lost Sheep Luke 15; separation in Matthew 25:31-40; called Lamb of God in Revelation 5)
- birds (worry, chicks Matthew 23:37)
- lion (called Lion of Judah, Revelation 5:5)
- donkey (ridden, Luke 19)
- horse (Revelation 19:11)
- dogs (eat crumbs under table Matthew 26; lick Lazarus' sores Luke 16)
- pigs (pearls Matthew 7:6; demons of Legion Matthew 8)
- snakes, sheep, wolves, doves (smart and wily Matthew 10:16)
- snakes (Pharisees, Matthew 23:33; no hurt Mark 16:17-19)
- indirect: oyster? (pearl of great price Matthew 13:35; pearls before swine Matthew 7:6)
- fox (feminine): Jesus called Herod one (Luke 13:32)
- foxes and birds: Jesus said that they have their homes (Luke 9:58)
- oxen, cattle; wedding parable (Matthew 22:4); oxen; wedding parable (Luke 14:18-20)
- ox and donkey; water on Sabbath (Luke 13:15); out of ditch on Sabbath (Luke 14:4-6)
- gnat, camel; strain at one, swallow the other (Matthew 23:24)

Honorable mention:

- Jesus born in a livestock feeding trough surrounded by animals (Luke 2:16)
- The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove at baptism. (interesting that the third person of the Godhead appeared in animal form. (Mark 1:9-11)
- With wild animals while fasting in the desert after His baptism (Mark 1:12-13)

See Jesus and The Animals, by Niki Behrikis Shanahan

RQ(45) When did Jesus use someone's name twice in a row?

- "Martha, Martha. . . ." (Luke 10:41)
- "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat." (Luke 22:31)
- "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4, retold in Acts 22:7 and Acts 26:14)
- "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

From John Ortberg, God Is Closer Than You Think: This Can Be the Greatest Moment of Your Life Because This Moment Is the Place Where You Can Meet God

Honorable Mention [PDE]:

- "verily, verily" from the KJV, which is translated as "I tell you the truth", in the NIV
- O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who have killed the prophets (Matthew 23:37)

RQ(46) What "broods" did Jesus mention? [PDE]

- vipers and chicks, Mt 23:33 & 37 (snakes in KJV, chicks in NIV)
- herd of pigs, Mt 8:30

RQ(47) What were the options for heirs that Abraham had?

- 1) his servant Eliezer (Genesis 15:2),
- 2) his wife's servant's son Ishmael (by Hagar, Genesis 16:3),
- 3) his own son Isaac (Genesis 17:19),
- 4) sons from Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2),
- 5) sons from concubine(s) (Genesis 25:6)

RQ(48) What man, healed from blindness, caused someone else to become blind?

- Saul / Paul, to Elymas in Acts 13:11

Also of interest [PDE]:

- The man born blind (John 9), saw that the Pharisees were blind (in a spiritual sense)

RQ(49) Name three different incidents where the disciples grab for power or status.

- First argument about who was greatest; Mark 9:33-35
- Who would have the top jobs (right and left); Matthew 20:22-28
- Last Supper; Luke 22:24-27 (who is the greatest); John 13:4-5 (footwashing)

In three different incidents, the disciples grab for power.

Each time Jesus brings them down. Paul Miller, Love Walked Among Us

RQ(50) When was Jesus interrupted by someone who wanted to be healed or forgiven?

- the blind man named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46)
- the woman suffering from chronic illness (Luke 8:47)

did not mean to interrupt

- the leper knelt in front of Him (Matthew 8:1)
- the man who was lowered through the roof (Luke 5:17ff)
- the woman who washed His feet with her tears (Luke 7:37ff)

He was interrupted right up to his hanging on the cross—which looked like the ultimate

interruption of his ministry, but was in fact the greatest work his Father had for him to do.

From John Ortberg, *God Is Closer Than You Think: This Can Be the Greatest Moment of Your Life Because This Moment Is the Place Where You Can Meet God*

PDE: All of us whenever we pray for something...