

## Evangelism Class #12 - The Power of Questions part 2

### 9 Benefits of Questions: (final 3 covered next class)

1. We model the master
2. Shows genuine interest
3. Help us talk with, not at
4. Create natural openings for spiritual discussion
5. Force People to Examine their own Beliefs
6. Help Clarify People's beliefs

### 3. Help us talk with, not at

- **Luke 10:25-26**
- **Matthew 17:24-26** - Jesus already knew the answers, but chose dialogue over monologue.
  - **Key:** In postmodern culture, people take offense at truth claims. Monologues sound arrogant. Dialogue makes it sound like you're a fellow seeker of truth, not a teacher who knows it all.

### 4. Create Natural Openings for Spiritual Discussion

- Like a boxing match, opening jabs ask questions of the opponent. Can't just run in swinging. Have to wait for openings or create them.
- Mostly, openings will be exposed naturally through conversation. Questions can create the openings though.
  - **Mark 8:29-31** - Jesus used questions to create an opening for discussing His role as a suffering Christ.
  - **Examples:** What are your thoughts on \_\_\_\_\_? Do you ever feel like \_\_\_\_\_? What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_? I've thought/felt \_\_\_\_\_ before, do you know what I mean?

### 5. Force People to Examine their Own Beliefs

- **Luke 10:25-26** - Forced him to formulate his own belief.
- **Matthew 12:9-12** - Forced them to recognize their own belief was false.
  - Statements push. Questions pull.
    - Statements push people to believe things because we believe it.
    - Questions pull people to discover truth for themselves. That can only happen if they're allowed to openly share their beliefs and hear themselves talk.
      - **Key:** In postmodern culture, most don't know their beliefs or why they believe them. We might be the first to ever ask!
- **Examples:** What do you believe about x? What makes you say that? How did you come to that conclusion? How certain do you feel about that? Where did you learn that?
  - **Bonus:** Puts the burden of proof on them. Rather than being defensive, our questions put them on the defensive. Don't need all the answers; let them give you theirs.
    - **Note:** Some will know the reasons for their belief well, and we'll need to be willing to say, "I don't know." Compliment them on being one of the rare people who know why they believe what they believe and tell them you'll look into it.

### 6. Help Clarify People's Beliefs

- **Mark 10:2-5** - Jesus wanted to know where they were coming from first.
  - Sometimes we THINK we know what someone believes, but we don't. We can use same terminology in completely different ways!
  - "Son of God," "Messiah," "God," "Jesus died for us," etc. are different to different people!
- **Examples of clarifying questions:** What do you mean by x? What is your concept/ understanding of x? In your mind, what do you think of when you say x?