

“What Do We Know”

Job 38:1-11

How many of you watch or have watched Who Wants To Be A Millionaire or Jeopardy? Both shows test your knowledge.

The first question on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire was supposedly easy. The question was: “As part of its maintenance which of these tourist attractions requires the use of embalming fluids? A. Lenin’s tomb, B. Mount Rushmore, C. Stonehenge, D. Hoover Dam. The contestant answered C. Stonehenge. The correct answer was Lenin’s tomb.

Both Who Wants To Be A Millionaire and Jeopardy test your knowledge. Today God is testing your knowledge. God’s question for you is “What do you know?”

One of the questions that every child asks is, “Why?” “Why can’t I have cake for breakfast grandma did? Why is the sky blue? Why is the moon called the moon? Asking questions is a great way to learn. The truth is that children can ask a lot of questions and questions we can’t answer.

Our first answer when God asks, “What do you know?” is “Not much”. That is true when it comes to the why question as it relates to suffering.

Job had lost all his cattle, donkeys, camels and sheep. Many of his servants were killed. Then his three daughters and seven sons were all killed. Job was struck with boils from head to toe. Why did all of this happen?

Job’s friends attempted to answer the why question by asking, “Job what did you do wrong?”

Eliphaz said, “Who do you know that was innocent who ever perished?” Bildad said, “Are you suggesting God is unjust?” Zophar says, “How dare you ask such questions of God.

Let me assure you that I am not able to tell you why God is allowing you to suffer or to grieve. There is a lot we don’t know because we are not God and because God’s thoughts are not our thoughts.

That means it is natural for us to ask, “Why?” But we need to know that our why questions will often go unanswered.

What do you know? The answer is not much when it comes to suffering and when it comes to God’s creation and God’s wisdom.

The Lord starts by saying, “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man: I will question you, and you make it known to me.”

God continues: “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb. . . and said “Thus far you shall come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?”

To Job’s credit after all of these questions he recognizes that he is ignorant. He is limited in power and understanding. He is unqualified to judge God.

We need to hear God asking us the same questions.

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Who determined how big the world would be and measured it out? Did you do that? Can you tell me how the earth and the heavenly bodies are supported in space? Can you tell me upon what her pillars were sunk?

The truth is just like Job there are times when we think we know better than God and we find fault with God? We think we could be His teacher.

We move to the Gospel lesson and note the disciples question, "Teacher don't you care if we drown or perish?" We look to God and say, "Don't you care?" So what do you know about God's love and care when you are in the midst of a storm?

I know God is love. It was caring that caused God to make a promise in the garden of Eden. It was love what caused Him to take up residence in Bethlehem. It was love that led Him to stand bloodied before a Roman governor. Jesus lived, died and rose for us. Our God put Himself in our boat to take our punishment and to carry our sins. If God didn't love you he wouldn't have entered the world and He wouldn't have died. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us.

God didn't still the storm that swirled on Good Friday because he wanted you to know that He cares. What do you know? We often sing it, "Jesus Loves Me This I know."

Then the disciples ask, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him?"

Who can make it rain? Who can make the wind blow? Who can stop the storm? What do you know? I know that Jesus is God in human flesh. Jesus Christ is Lord. He is ruler of everything in heaven and on earth. He is Lord of nature. He is ruler of the wind and waves. There is nothing beyond His power. This One Who is the Creator became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and made man. This One by whom all things were made went to the cross and rose again for our salvation.

One way to summarize today's lessons is to say that God is God and we are not.

When it comes to our questions God doesn't give us answers. He gives Himself. God came in human flesh, walked the dusty paths of Palestine, preached, taught and healed. He lived a perfect life, was tortured and hung on a cross. Then three days later God shattered death and produced both hope and peace.

What do you know? I don't know the answers to all my why questions but I can say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.^[b] 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in^[c] my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

God, the Maker of heaven and earth, has built you upon the foundation of Christ. He has measured you out – not by your measurement, which is sin, but by the measure of Christ's righteousness place upon you. When you were recreated in Christ the morning stars snag together and all the angels sang for joy.

This text will have accomplished its purpose when we acknowledge our limited understanding. When we see that we aren't any better than the contestant on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire. This text will have accomplished its purpose when we stand back and say, "My God How great Thou Art". This text will have accomplished its purpose when we walk by faith and not by sight. This text will have accomplished its purpose when we when we focus not on the why but on Who..

What do you know? We know that our knowledge and power are limited. We know that God's wisdom, power and love are not. We know that God doesn't provide answers but he has provided a resurrection. In the midst of all of life and all of life's questions we know one thing, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.