

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"Do you want to get well?"
John 5:6

Jesus was a master teacher and like any good teacher, He knew how to ask good questions. Questions are an essential part of our learning. There can be just as much good in understanding the questions to ask, and when to ask them, as there is in understanding a solid approach to answering the question – and the answer itself.

In John 5:6, Jesus asked a paralyzed man, "do you want to get well?" The answer doesn't take a masters degree to figure out. Of course, a paralyzed person wants to get well. However, there is more to this question. Does this man want to take on a life that is required of him when he is able and has full agency? More will be expected of him on the other side of healing. The truth is some people would rather stay with what they already know than get better. Health can be far scarier than paralysis for some. It is important that he owns the answer to Jesus' question before Jesus heals him.

Or, how about Matthew 8:26 where in the middle of a raging storm Jesus asks His disciples, "why are you so afraid?" Again, the answer is obvious... or maybe it isn't. The sentence right before the question is, "you of little faith." They are with Jesus. They don't need to be afraid. However, fear is a natural human emotion that is understandable in those kinds of circumstances. Instead of saying, "Don't be afraid," he asks them 'why' they are afraid, and it is important that they wrestle with their own answer to Jesus' question. They might not all have the same answer!

Both the paralyzed man and the disciples in the boat have something in common. They are both learning and growing in their faith and Jesus is working with them.

Like Jesus, when we disciple people, we need to use questions. Here are ten questions to add to your disciple-making repertoire:

1. What is the Holy Spirit trying to teach you in this moment?
2. How do you navigate this decision in a way that upholds your integrity?
3. How can I really help you? (Matt 20:32)
4. What do you need most from God right now?
5. What is keeping you from doing what you know you are supposed to do (obedience)?
6. What good thing is God doing in your life today that we can celebrate together?
7. What is on your mind/what are you thinking in your heart? (Luke 5:22)
8. What is one thing you are going to do with what you just learned?
9. Who is someone with whom you can share what you learned?
10. What is God doing in your life right now?

These are a few questions that can allow people to turn from passive recipients of a disciple-making process to active and engaged participants, who seek to accomplish the mission God has given us. Blessings!

TRANSITION UPDATE

This is my last FYI. Thank you again for the privilege of serving the Illinois Conference for the past 9 years. I will continue to pray for God's hand to lead this Conference as you move forward to accomplish the mission He has given us to "Go and make disciples..."

My last official day as Conference President is May 15. The Illinois Conference Constitution and Bylaws state when the position of Conference President becomes vacant, the Conference Executive Secretary becomes acting president. Effective May 16th, Elder John Gryns, Conference Executive Secretary, will serve as acting president until a permanent person is chosen.

GALLERY



The Savior's work was not restricted to any time or place. His compassion knew no limit. Wherever there were hearts ready to receive His message, He comforted them with the assurance of their heavenly Father's love."

*- Signs of the Times,
October 30, 1907*

