Easter means that Jesus is alive to help us…to guide us…to comfort us…to give us wisdom… to correct us…and He does that through his Word and His Spirit and through others and through situations. So…given we have this *Alive Savior-God* ready to do our bidding, to come to our aid, to help us live life…what would you ask Him to do for you? What is most pressing in your life right now that you need help with? What issue do you need to know right from wrong on…up from down on… WHAT WOULD YOU ASK GOD IF YOU HAD JUST ONE QUESTION?

In order to get a better handle on what is most important to ask Jesus, this morning we are going to look at a couple questions people asked Jesus when he walked this earth, and those two come from **Mark 12:18-34**:

18 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 19 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the
man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.

(Slide#3) 20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. 21 The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third.

(Slide#4) 22 In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. 23 At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

(Slide#5) 24 Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? 25 When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. (Slide#6) 26 Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

(Slide#7) 28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked
him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Slide#8) 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

(Slide#9) 32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

(Slide#10) 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

If you have only one chance to get your one question answered, don’t blow it! (Slide#11) Ask the most important one you can think of! Here we have a question about Marriage in the Resurrection from the Sadducees
and a question about The Greatest Commandment from a teacher of the law.

The one about marriage in the resurrection from Sadducees who didn’t believe in the resurrection we could easily put in the category of (Slide#12) a “Hostile Question.” Hostile questions came from mostly the religious leaders—Pharisees, Sadducees, teachers of the law…and from demons (you can marvel all you want about religious leaders and demons asking the same kinds of questions, but it makes me a little nervous!).

These are the kinds of questions designed to trap Jesus or make Jesus look foolish in order to discredit his authority… These are “gotcha” questions.

These are people coming with an agenda. These are individuals whose hearts are rock hard and are only looking out for themselves. They were given a singular opportunity to ask the God of Creation a question, and they blew it. God was standing before them – and instead they chose to selfishly push their own agenda.

Biblical Researcher Taylor Holmes says the New Testament records 13 of these Hostile Questions once you take away all the duplicates that
reoccur in the Gospels.

Then there are the **Genuine Questions**…an example of that type is one about the Greatest Commandment that came right after the marriage question in Mark 12. Even though the questioner was a “Teacher of the Law,” this is one of those rare moments a religious leader asks Jesus a question that really seems to have no ulterior motive behind it—no desire to trip him up or make Jesus look bad. In fact, there were pleasantries exchanged between the teacher and Jesus after the answer was given… **“Well said,” the teacher replied. “You are right…”** and **“Jesus responded, you are not far from the Kingdom of God…”**

Holmes says there are 24 of the Genuine Questions recorded in the Gospels that come from an assortment of people—these are the best kind of questions…honest ones that help us grow in mercy and grace and become more Christ-like…

The other questions of Jesus come **from his Disciples**, of which there are 16, that are often to clarify some teaching he gave or test out an idea with Jesus, such as, **“…do you want us to call fire down from**
heaven?” (that one didn’t go so well, if you recall…) or “…what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

And the last category is Christ’s two unanswered questions, (Slide#15) ----there are only two! Mark 14:60, “The high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" and Matthew 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, "Prophesy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

So even after looking extremely hard to find every single time Jesus didn’t answer a question, there really isn’t much. Jesus went way out of His way to engage the people of His day and to answer them whatever they asked. Sometimes, obviously, being God meant not answering the way the questioner hoped. But He almost always answered.

So…(Slide#16) WHAT IS YOUR ONE QUESTION?

To help us get into that let ME ask YOU a question…How much does God know? A LOT! The theological term for his knowledge is
Omniscience. God knows everything! Just think about that for a minute. From the stars in the universe to the hairs on your head—God knows the number. God knows how many breaths you have taken and how many you have left. He knows when you will die. He knows if you’re going to Heaven or Hell. He knows all about that bad habit you have that you can’t seem to kick. He knows how you can kick it and He even knows if you will or not. God knows everything about all the relationships you have—the good, the bad and the ugly! And why they work the way they do. He knows what frustrates you and what makes you feel at peace. God knows the unseen future and forgotten details of the past.

But that’s not all God knows—you see its much more than just the facts ma’am with God! God has infinite awareness, understanding and insight. He knows your motives. He knows when you’re fooling yourself. He knows when you’re trying to fool Him. He knows exactly how close you are to becoming what He wants you to become and how far you are from that too! God knows you intimately and thoroughly in this moment and what you will be a year from now and 10 years from now and 50 years
from now. He knows how you will spend your eternity. He knows what drives you and what causes you to close down shop.

I often tell young couples who want to get married, “You may think you know this other person really well right now, but if you’re fortunate enough to be married for 50 years, even at that time you will still be discovering new things about them.”

But see, God doesn’t need to discover anything new about us—He already knows. It’s us who are in the discovery seat and every day reveals deeper and richer realities about this Heavenly Father who knows us and loves us so deeply…so… (move to the white board…)

**PROJECT THE SHOT OF THE WHITEBOARD**

Let’s say this circle represents ALL KNOWLEDGE…God’s knowledge—his knowledge of dates and facts, end of the world and how we get there…will the Rays will ever win a World Series…how many heartbeats you have left…what kind of legacy you will leave—how people will remember you…ALL KNOWLEDGE.

Inside this circle is everything that is knowable and known—ALL
AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND INSIGHT…it’s God’s knowledge.

HOW MUCH OF THIS OMNISCIENCE DO YOU POSSESS?
WHAT PERCENTAGE DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR BRAIN? (ask someone to come forward to designate by drawing a slice of the pie, how much they have…then someone else…and maybe a third)

Then give this scenario…suppose you have a meeting with God at 10 tomorrow morning…

And at that meeting you have been assured you will get God’s answer to **one question** and **ONE QUESTION ONLY**… What will it be? What is your One Question?

Write it on the enclosed Card…don’t sign it unless you want to…then following the service as you go out the doors, drop the card in the box in the entry ways beside the doors. We will develop several future sermons from the most asked questions. Take a moment right now and write down your most burning question…we’ll do our best to answer it from Scripture, Experience and Spirit inspired Reason!
Really, the meal we come to now, answers of all our questions. Questions imply mystery, and this meal is shrouded in mystery. The nourishment we receive in this meal helps us live comfortably with mystery, because not every question will be answered, but the longing of our hearts is deepening trust even when our questions don’t get answered. Come to this soul-satisfying feast!