

Some Important Questions & Answers

Now let's look at some examples from the gospels of how Jesus operated as a man.

Did baby Jesus know that he was God?

Did he cry?

How much did Jesus learn about his calling by the time he was twelve years old?

Did Jesus eat a lot as a teenager?

Did he notice girls?

What did Jesus have to learn as he grew up?

What was it like for Jesus when he was baptized and the Holy Spirit came upon him?

Was Jesus caught off guard when he fell asleep in the back of the boat and the storm came upon them? How did he rebuke the storm?

Why didn't Jesus know the day or the hour of his own second coming?

Was Jesus really surprised at the faith of the Roman centurion?

Why did Jesus ask, "Who touched me?" (Lk. 8:45)

Did Jesus expect to find fruit on that fig tree or did he curse it just to teach the disciples a lesson?

Why did Jesus have to ask where Lazarus was buried?

Did Jesus want to get out of going to the cross when he asked the Father to let "this cup pass from me"?

Was Jesus a better, or a stronger, or a smarter man at age 33 than at 18?

Why did Jesus say that Christians would do the same things that he did and even greater things?

Was Jesus' position in heaven better after his resurrection than it had been before he came to earth?

Answers

"In any case, it is only by degrees that the full meaning of his relationship to the Father . . . can have broken on Jesus' mind. The self-sacrifice in which his earthly life originated drew a veil over these ultimate realities. . . we are lead to believe that the veil must gradually have worn thinner and more translucent, until . . . he knew himself the Son conditioned in and by humanity."

What do the answers to all these questions mean to you and to your walk as a Christian believer? Whether or not your life was greatly changed when you became a believer, it will be after you understand the answers to questions like these? After we have discussed them all, you can then draw your own conclusions.

No, baby Jesus did not know in his mind that he was God any more than another infant knows his last name or what his father's occupation is.

Yes, baby Jesus cried. Since infants make their needs known by crying, and Mary and Joseph were not perfect parents, baby Jesus would have had to cry to get their attention. Just because "Away In A Manger" says that he did not cry does not make it so. The Bible never says that he never cried.

By the age of twelve years Jesus was beginning to understand who he was and why he was here. This is the age when most people begin to think about "what they will be when they grow up." Jesus was becoming aware of the Father's will for his earthly life.

Teenagers eat a lot. We have no reason to believe that Jesus was any different. Teenagers eat a lot because they are hungry. They are hungry because of the amount of energy they consume to grow and live their very active life. We have no reason to believe that Jesus was any different.

Most all teenage boys notice girls. It is possible for them to notice girls without sinning. Insofar as it is possible to notice girls without sinning, Jesus noticed.

Jesus had to learn what all the other children in Nazareth had to learn while growing up. He helped around the house and learned the carpenter's trade from Joseph. He probably even had to take out the garbage.

It was a wonderful day for Jesus when the Holy Spirit came upon him. He had similar feelings about receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to those of other people. It was also a very serious time because it was the beginning of his public ministry.

Jesus was truly asleep in the boat when the storm came up. He awoke to the wind and the waves and the panic of the disciples. Although he was surprised, he was not upset and he rebuked the storm. Jesus rebuked the storm by faith, not because he was God. This is an important point because it determines what you will believe about your faith and actions.

Jesus did not know the exact time of his return because the Father by the Holy Spirit had not yet told him.

Yes, Jesus was pleasantly surprised at the faith of the Roman centurion. He was surprised because the Centurion was a gentile and a soldier. He was not a Jew. But Jesus was happy to see this faith and held the centurion up as an example to the Jews. Perhaps this even made Jesus realize more fully that gentiles would become promising believers.

Jesus had to ask, "Who touched me?" (Lk 8:45) because he didn't know who it was that touched him. He felt healing power leave his body, but did not know where it went. The Holy Spirit, who was Jesus' anointing, saw the woman and power was released. But the Holy Spirit did not tell Jesus who it was that drew the power. Jesus expected to find fruit on the fig tree. He was disappointed and angry so he cursed the tree and it died. This was true human emotional involvement. Jesus was looking for another kind of fruitfulness among the Jews and he did not find it. He had a taste for a juicy fig and did not find them. The fig tree took the brunt of his wrath. Have you ever broken a pencil because you were angry at the way someone had treated you?

Jesus had to ask where Lazarus was buried because he did not know where the grave was. Even though he knew that the entire situation was to be to the glory of God and he came to raise Lazarus from the dead, the Holy Spirit had not told him where the grave was. So just like any man, he had to ask.

Yes, Jesus was really asking the Father if the cross had to happen. The pain and the darkness of the cross was horrifying to Jesus and that was why he asked the Father if it had to happen.

Jesus was more mature with all the attributes that come with maturity at 33 than he was at 18 because he grew and changed just like any other human being both in his personal life and in his calling.

Jesus said that Christians would do the same things that he did and greater things because he came as a man to show us the way, and there are more of us than there was of him.

Jesus' position in heaven after the resurrection is even greater than it was before he came to earth. Because after the resurrection Jesus' manhood is fully developed and, what is more important, also glorified. He has a glorified manhood. This humanity is eternal. Jesus is eternally human and has a resurrected body of "flesh and bone" (Lk. 24:39) just as we will have. It is possible for us to have this resurrected body because Jesus has one himself. Before Jesus came to earth in the incarnation, he was God and full of glory as God in heaven, but he was not yet a man. So now he is glorified both as God and as man in eternity. This is a great difference. And it is never ending.

Here is a question that we have not considered so far. Why did Jesus treat the Syro-Phoenician woman like he did? Why did he reward her perseverance? "Even the dogs eat the crumbs." (Mt. 15:27) Like everything else that Jesus did, this was not an act put on for our benefit. Jesus believed that the gospel was sent for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. This woman was not of the house of Israel. She was a half breed, part Phoenician which was of Greek extraction and part Syrian which was one of the ancient enemies of the Jews. At first he did not want her to have any benefit but she displayed a truly humble attitude which touched his heart and he was moved to help her. This is the act of a true and loving human being.