

AN OFTEN ASKED THREE LETTERED QUESTION

Judges 6:13

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There is a question that people often ask but if they knew the answer they would know as much as God. People ask that question when they see so much injustice and evil in the world. They ask that question when heavy afflictions fall upon them, and they ask that question when they or members of their family become ill. Gideon asked that question in our text. Job asked that question. The Psalmist asked that question. The question we are so often asking and if we knew the answer we would be as wise as God, is WHY?

I. GIDEON ASKED GOD "WHY?" (*Judges 6:11-13*)

1. Israel was being constantly persecuted by the Midianites.
 - They invaded the land of Israel especially at harvest time, stealing, burning and destroying.
 - The Israelite farmers had to harvest their crops in secret for fear of the Midianites.
2. An angel came to Gideon and told him that the Lord was with him (Gideon) and knew who he was.
3. Gideon answered back that he doubted the Lord was with him or Israel since their crops were being and destroyed and that they had to work in secret..
 - Gideon replied that he had heard of how God had done great things for Israel in the past, but where was He now? Why had God left them?
4. That three lettered question has been uttered countless times through the centuries by every person of every generation about why is there war, poverty, disease, etc.
 - Churches ask that question when their membership dies out, when people no longer are being baptized, when offerings drop off.
 - At the very time Christians need to be living Godly lives, they are lowering their standards.
 - At the very time Christians need to be witnessing, they are becoming disloyal and indifferent
 - WHY?
5. Gideon was commanded by God (*v14*) to go do something about the problem, to take action.
 - That is the answer to a lot of times we ask that same three lettered question - WHY? - nothing is gained by sitting around and asking "why, why, why?"

II. JOB ASKED "WHY?" (*Job 1:1-22*)

1. We are familiar with the story of Job and the disasters that God allowed to fall upon Job.
 - One day Job was wealthy, had a family and a wonderful life.
 - In a single day Job lost every thing except his wife.
2. As if that wasn't enough God allowed Satan to afflict Job's body with boils from head to foot and he was in constant extreme pain.
3. *Job 3:11-12* - Job asked the three lettered question, "Why" can't a man die when he longs to die?
4. God gave to Job more faith and Job was aware of it. (*Job 23:10-17*)
5. Throughout all his trials, troubles and pain, Job had faith in God.
6. When Job's difficulties and trials had ended, God blessed Job with even more than Job had had before.

III. EVEN JESUS ASKED "WHY?" (Matthew 27:45-46)

1. Jesus' "why" is the greatest "why" of the entire Bible for while He was hanging on the cross Jesus felt all alone and cried out to God, "*...why hast thou forsaken me...?*"
2. It would seem impossible for it to happen for this was God's own Son. Why would God leave His Son alone? Has there been some sort of manuscript error? Did this really happen?
3. Just before the cross, Jesus was alone in a garden and was praying intensely and was asking God, His heavenly Father, if there was any other way to salvage mankind. Was there any other way for man to have his/her sins forgiven and be made right with God.
 - Jesus knew that if He went through with what was planned, He would be involved in sin and that would cause Him to become separated from God, thus a "bitter" cup to drink was before Him.
4. Why did God forsake His very own Son, leaving Him to die alone on a cross?
 - His Son became tainted, stained, covered in sin, the sins of mankind and God could not have sin in His perfect presence.
 - That was what Jesus came to do, to become, all for us, for humanity.
 - Few have ever considered what actually happened between God, the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, the Son of God when Jesus became contaminated with the sins of mankind. Think about it!
5. God's wrath against sin and God's love for mankind was revealed at the cross and answered Jesus' cry of "*...my God, my God, why has thou forsaken me...?*"

CONCLUSION:

1. The three lettered question "WHY" truly reveals that in the believer's life "*...all things work together for good unto them that love God...*"
2. Whether we realize it or not, which we seldom do, infinite love is always at the heart of all the "why's" in life.
3. Perhaps now when you are about to ask "why?" you may pause and give more thought to the situation for which you are wondering "why."