**Wisdom - Think About It**

**The Gift of Holy Curiosity - Part 3**

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# **Introduction**

# We are naturally born with the gift of curiosity, but as we get older, we can lose it if we are not careful. As children, we have a desire to learn by asking many questions but as we develop, we are taught to ask less questions, to be less inquisitive and just except the status quo.

**Leading With Holy Curiosity**

**Lead by spiritual curiosity – INNOVATION and creativity**

* Holy Spirit created this attribute – God causes us to wonder
* Wise people become wiser because they are curious
* Innovation and creativity all begin with – CURIOSITY
* This season is based on moments – capture the moment and seize the season.

**Curiosity** – a strong desire to know or learn something – a strange or unusual object or fact.

# **Main Passage**

**2Timothy 4:13**

**13**Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.

**Moses And the Burning Bush**

**Exodus 3:2-4**

2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. **So he looked**, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, **"I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."** 4 So when the LORD saw that **he turned aside to look**, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

**Acts 7:30-31**

31 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. 32 When Moses saw it, **he marveled at the sight**; and as he drew **near to observe,** the voice of the Lord came to him…

* God only speaks when Moses turns aside
* When Moses responded – God spoke
* It led to the assignment
* God called him to action.

**Introduction Of Sermon**

* I have never heard about this subject until Bishop Tony Miller said something to me
* It’s implied in the Bible but not clearly spoken
* Not all curiosity is good.

# **Transition Statement**

God invites us into His world and work through curiosity, examples from the Bible:

* Moses and the burning bush
* Joshua remained outside the tent where Moses met with God even after Moses was done left
* The wisemen followed a star for at least 2 years
* The day of Pentecost – people asked – *“what could this mean”* ?
* Angels long to look into the mystery of salvation

# **Main Points**

**Principles of Leading with Curiosity**

1. **Be brave**
2. To be brave means to:

* Display courage in the face on uncertainty
* Move toward the intended target
* Have crucial conversations with God, with others and with yourself
* Challenge the status quo
* Embrace the uncomfortable zone
* Not be afraid to look foolish in front of others – ask questions, ask for explanations
* Start – even if things seem imperfect.
  1. Valiant - Possessing or showing courage or determination.
  2. Peter:
* Walked on water
* Raised a little girl from the dead
* His shadow healed people
* He went to Cornelius’ house

**Matthew 14:28-31**

28 Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” 29 “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So, Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. Mat 30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

1. **Ask Questions - lead with the “why” and the “what”**

1. ***Questions are powerful for learning and development***

* Questions demand answers
* Questions spark curiosity

1. Why does it work, why does it not work?
2. What if we do….?
3. Ask broad, thought-provoking questions
4. When it comes to questions:

* Ask hard questions
* Ask more question not less
* As we get older – people ask less and less questions
* Wise people ask questions – don’t be afraid to look foolish

1. Five key questions to ask of yourself

* What can I do well?
* Will you forgive me?
* Can I help you? I am here to serve you, I care about you
* What can I learn from this?
* What is the most important thing I should focus on today?

1. Questions:

* The power of a question changes
* The who asks the questions leads the conversation
* Promote better thinking
* Reveal truth
* Open the door to learning

1. Allow the question to be bigger than yourself – allow wisdom to operate within you
2. Jesus asked:

* In the Gospels, Jesus asks more questions than He answers. To be precise,
* Jesus asks **307 questions**
* He is asked **183 of which He only answers three**
* Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings.

**Luke 2:46**

Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

1. **Observe with intent**
2. The Bible places great emphasis on seeking, especially when it comes to seeking the Lord. We are encouraged to seek out His presence, truth, righteousness, and justice amongst other excellent virtues.
3. To SEEK The Lord:

* Wise people seek out God
* The wisemen sought for Jesus – they followed a star

1. Seeking is the process and action that follows curiosity
2. We respond and create movement towards that which has caused us to be inquisitive. There are critical questions that we should ask ourselves in the process of seeking:

* What can I learn from this?
* What are you focused on?

1. Focus brings clarity

* It puts a spotlight on what is critical and important
* Research and investigate
* Look beyond the obvious
* Discover possibilities
* Do not make your focus on just only being right
* Observation thinking - even over results and outcomes

**Job 37:14**

"Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

**Proverbs 25:2**

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

1. **Contemplate - Possibility Thinking**
2. To contemplate means to look at something thoughtfully. The entire Bible, but especially the New Testament, encourages its readers to be thoughtful, reverent and to think critically.
3. Paul gave his spiritual son Timothy instruction to bring his books and his papers, clearly, he was a person that did the study.

**2Timothy 4:13**

When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers.

1. Think critically

* Paul was a great thinker – he studied and searched the scriptures as well as other sources
* He understood philosophy and world religions
* His ministry = traveling, praying, preaching
* He argued and defended the Gospel
* Critical thinking is a process with essential levels/steps. To make sound and effective decisions, each level of critical thinking must be obtained before you can progress to the next level
* Evaluation - to assess value, amount, or significance
* The highest level of thinking and learning
* Analysis – method of study/essential features
* Understanding – to comprehend knowledge
* Knowledge – information, feedback, data
* Wisdom – the right application of knowledge

**Psalms 111:2**

The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

1. **Curiosity is Contagious**
2. Curiosity creates a hunger and intrigue amongst others. In a positive way, it affects people with a desire to learn and to research.
3. The early church operated in the gift of curiosity—they were able to influence cities and people groups, because those within their circle learned to ask questions and look with amazement.
4. Perhaps our faith has become too stagnant, too predictable, and lacks the fervour of mystery and wonder.

**Acts 2:12**

So, they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

1. Peter, John, and the church created an encounter that the city had to ask, “What does this all mean?”

* The early church had nothing materially to speak of
* They lived out of what they believed
* They lived out of their life in love with God
* They lived out of the supernatural

**Acts 3:10**

Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**Marvel** – the unusual, the outstanding, be filled with astonishment.

**Quotes**

*The development of your gift begins with curiosity.*

*The gift of curiosity is contagious.*

*We are naturally born with curiosity and the desire to ask many many questions, but somewhere along the way this gift is taken away from us – the longer we live, the fewer questions we ask.*

*The development of your gift begins with curiosity.*

*The focus of curiosity should be relentless improvement.*

**Group Discussion & Questions**

1. What are you seeking currently?
2. Create a list of how the early church operated in wonder and amazement.
3. How can you become more contagious (by operating in the gif of curiosity) to people around you?
4. Explain how curiosity can also be a negative. List three examples from the Bible.
5. Unwrap the story of the wisemen. How are they motivated by the gift of curiosity? Why did they follow a star? Where did they hear about the Child-King?
6. How did the early church create wonder, amazement, and marvel? Discuss how it might have looked on a daily basis.
7. Look at the life of Paul and give additional examples of how he operated in wisdom, the holy gift of curiosity, and how this led to study and research.