

# **HOW JESUS MET LIFE QUESTIONS**

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How Jesus Met Life Questions by Harrison S. Elliott

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**HARRISON S. ELLIOTT**

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LIFE QUESTIONS**



LIFE PROBLEM BIBLE STUDIES

**HOW JESUS MET LIFE QUESTIONS**  
Harrison S. Elliott

**JESUS AND HIS CAUSE**  
A. Bruce Curry, Jr.

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HARRISON S. ELLIOTT

*Editorial Secretary, Association Press*



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The Scripture text is taken from "The New Testament, A New Translation," by James Moffatt, and is used through the courtesy of Geo. H. Doran Company, New York.

## FOREWORD

The title of this book exactly explains its purpose and viewpoint. This is not a book about the Bible, but is intended as a guide, through personal study and group discussion, to a direct study of the New Testament record to find "how Jesus met life questions." The topic or problem of each chapter is stated in present-day form. The individual students and the group members are challenged to consider for themselves both the present-day issue and the issue Jesus faced, to see how Jesus met the problem. Each one is asked to reach his own conclusion as to what Jesus' ideal really was, and to apply this heroically in relation to the present-day problems as he meets them.

It is hoped that those who use the book will read and study the records of Jesus' life eagerly, open-mindedly, as if coming to them for the first time. Earnest attempt has been made not to bias in any way the thinking and conclusions of those who use the book. There is no particular set of ideas regarding the life and teachings of Jesus which the author is attempting to set forth. The purpose is to get others to form ideas of their own rather than to adopt those which may appeal to him.

Only such modern questions have been introduced into each chapter as seem in their real issue and problem to be the same as Jesus faced and upon which it seems fair to go to the life of Jesus for direct help as to his viewpoint. A major question at present is whether Jesus' ideals and principles will really work in the modern world. In answering this question, too often Jesus' life and teachings are warped to confirm some opinion that a person already holds, or some current idea of that for which Jesus stood is accepted. An earnest attempt has been made here to stimulate open-minded reading of the records, so that each individual or group may come to his own viewpoint as to Jesus' attitude and idea on the problem in hand.

Each chapter has three sections. After a brief introductory statement of the problem or question of the chapter, the *Bible references* are printed out. The Moffatt translation is used, not as a substitute for the use of one's own Testament, but for comparison and to bring the challenge of a new translation. This is followed by *Suggestions for Personal Study*. These are questions upon the Scripture, intended to lead the reader to discover the issue or situation in each reference and to find the big ideas for which Jesus stood. These Suggestions, in seven sections, can be used for daily study in the Morning Watch or followed in a study of the chapter at a single sitting if preferred.



The third section, *Questions for Group Discussion*, are intended for the guidance of the group or for personal use as a summary.

The first twenty-one chapters cover, in the order of the Matthew-Mark-Luke record, the major events in Jesus' life. The order given in Sharman, "Records of the Life of Jesus" and "Jesus in the Records," has been followed. Eight supplementary chapters cover other problems faced by Jesus at various times in his life and on which we seem to have a right to go to his life for help. Each chapter has also one central problem and is a unit in itself. Accordingly the book can be used for a series of topical or problem studies (see page ix for Topical Index), using the chapters in whatever order the problems and needs of the group may dictate, or as a systematic study of the life of Jesus from the problem approach.

### To the Leader

The Questions for Group Discussion include many questions which have actually been used in discussion groups. They are arranged in the order in which they would be used in an actual group, though there are more questions than could be used in any one discussion. Each set will be found to contain: First, questions with which to open the discussion. These are usually concrete, out of the experience of the group, and intended to capture interest and to make living and vital the major problem for discussion. Second, there are questions on the biblical material, intended to lead the group members to examine for themselves each incident or story so as to understand the situation Jesus faced and to discover how he met it and what he stood for. These usually close with a summary question to gather up the thinking of the group and give a chance for the formulation of the *Big Idea* for which Jesus stood. Third, there are questions which have to do with action. These challenge the application of Jesus' ideal to various present-day problems. These are intended to lead to a consideration of the changes in life today which the adoption of Jesus' ideal would make necessary, whether these changes are practicable, and how they can be brought about. It will thus be seen that the questions are arranged in the order of rewarding individual or group thinking, namely, (1) Problem; (2) Solution; (3) Action.

The leader will not follow these questions mechanically. He will need to choose, revise, eliminate, add and thus make a list of his own, covering, however, questions for each of the three sections suggested above—namely, questions to make the PROBLEM understood; questions leading to a search for Jesus' SOLUTION; questions to make possible ACTION, the application of the solution of the problems which has been arrived at.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD.....	v
TOPICAL INDEX.....	ix
<b>Jesus' Call and His Decision as to His Life Mission</b>	
I. WHAT DO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WANT?.....	1
A Study of the National Hopes in Jesus' Day.	
II. WHAT SHOULD WE CHOOSE?.....	6
Jesus Faces His Mission for His Nation.	
<b>Jesus' Work in Galilee and Clash with the Religious Leaders</b>	
III. HOW CAN WE HELP THE NEED OF THE WORLD?.....	10
Jesus Helps Relieve His People's Distress.	
IV. HOW FAR SHOULD CUSTOM DETERMINE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT?.....	14
Jesus' Attitude toward Commonly Accepted Standards.	
V. HOW IS THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD OF CONDUCT DIFFERENT?.....	19
Jesus Declares His Ethical Standards.	
VI. HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN GET EVEN?.....	23
Jesus Establishes a New Type of Revenge.	
VII. WHAT IS WRONG WITH "BLUFFING" AND "KNOCK- ING"?.....	27
Jesus' Attacks Sham and Tells How to Test Religion.	
VIII. WHAT IS JESUS' CAUSE IN THE WORLD?.....	35
Jesus' Points of Emphasis Regarding the Kingdom.	
IX. WHAT MAKES RELIGION STAND THE TEST?.....	40
Jesus Shows the Essentials in Everyday Religion.	
<b>Jesus' Visit, as a Fugitive, to Tyre, Sidon, and Decapolis</b>	
X. HOW SHALL WE TREAT OTHER RACES AND NATIONAL- ITIES?.....	46
Jesus, a Fugitive, Breaks with Jewish Narrowness.	
<b>Issue at Caesarea Philippi Regarding the Cost of Messiahship</b>	
XI. HOW MUCH DOES LOYALTY COST?.....	53
Jesus Faces His Followers with Costly Sacrifice.	
<b>Incidents on the Journey to Jerusalem</b>	
XII. WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO PRAY?.....	60
Jesus Answers Inquiries about Prayer.	

	PAGE
XIII. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WORLD? . . . . .	65
Jesus Extends the Obligations of His Followers.	
XIV. HOW CAN WE FACE LIFE WITHOUT WORRY? . . . . .	70
Jesus Sets Forth the Christian's Confidence.	
XV. WHAT IS A MAN'S OBJECT IN HIS WORK? . . . . .	75
Jesus Establishes an Impelling Motive for Life.	
XVI. WHAT SHALL WE DO ON SUNDAY? . . . . .	79
Jesus Justifies His Breaking of the Sabbath Law.	
XVII. WHAT DETERMINES THE VALUE OF A MAN? . . . . .	82
Jesus Shows His Estimate of People.	
XVIII. WHAT MAKES A PERSON A SUCCESS? . . . . .	89
Jesus Shows His Basis for True Leadership.	
<b>Final Clash with the Religious Leaders in Jerusalem</b>	
XIX. WHO IS A HYPOCRITE? . . . . .	93
Jesus' Indignation Blazes Forth against Graft and Hypocrisy.	
<b>The Struggle in Gethsemane and Jesus' Trial, Crucifixion, and Victory</b>	
XX. HOW CAN WE MEET TIMES OF SUPREME TESTING? . . . . .	100
Jesus Faces Trial and Death.	
XXI. CAN WE BELIEVE THAT LIFE DOES NOT END? . . . . .	108
Jesus' Followers See that He Is Alive.	
<b>Some Additional Issues Faced by Jesus at Various Times</b>	
XXII. HOW DO WE ENLIST IN JESUS' CAUSE? . . . . .	114
What Jesus Asked of His Followers.	
XXIII. WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL OF CHIVALRY? . . . . .	119
Jesus Sets a High Standard for Men and Women.	
XXIV. HOW IS ONE'S LIFE WORK DISCOVERED? . . . . .	123
Jesus Shows the Christian's Object in Life.	
XXV. WHAT IS A FAIR CHANCE FOR ALL? . . . . .	127
Jesus Shows His Concern for the Weak and Oppressed.	
XXVI. WHAT IS A FAIR INCOME? . . . . .	131
Jesus' Attitude on Money Perplexes the Privileged.	
XXVII. IS DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE? . . . . .	136
Jesus Shows His Confidence in the Common People.	
XXVIII. WHAT HOPE IS THERE THAT THE WORLD CAN BE MADE CHRISTIAN? . . . . .	140
Jesus' Emphasis on Changing Wrong Conditions.	
XXIX. HOW JESUS MET LIFE QUESTIONS . . . . .	145
INDEX OF SCRIPTURE PASSAGES . . . . .	148