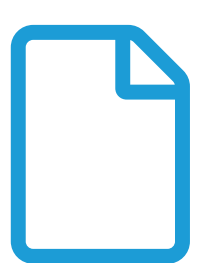
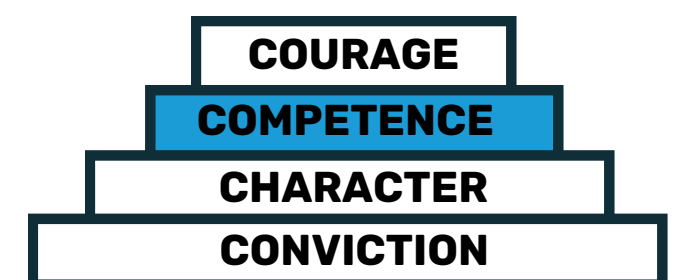




RADICAL LOVE AT WORK

7. THE ART OF THE NON-ANSWER



Introduction

Think back to the last time someone asked you a question that put you on the spot.

What were you asked?

What did you say?



Big Picture

When asked a tricky question, Jesus often turned it back on the questioner - and we can too.



Bible Passage

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Luke 10:25-28



Key Truths

1. The expert in the law wanted to test Jesus, so he asked Jesus a tricky question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” This was not an innocuous question. Wrapped up in this lawyer’s question are hidden assumptions – the lawyer already *knows* the answer he’s looking for.
2. And so, Jesus refuses to play his game. Jesus asks the expert in the law to give his answer.
3. Once the lawyer has had his say, Jesus can affirm his position before challenging him to keep the standard he has set.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Questions can put us on the back foot – particularly when they come out of nowhere – and especially when they come from someone trying to trip us up. But have you considered that we don’t have to answer every question asked of us?

We could turn the question back on the questioner, like Jesus does. We could ask, “why do you want to know?”.

Think back to a time when you found yourself stumped by a question (or when you last flubbed an answer). How could you handle it differently now?

Of course, when we’re asked a question it’s a great time to be praying that God would provide us with more good questions – or a helpful answer.



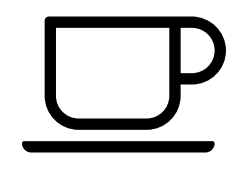
Prayer

Pray for confidence and wisdom to know when to ask a good question rather than give an answer.

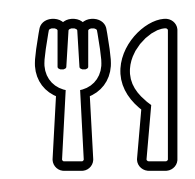
Pray for good questions from our colleagues and friends.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL

