

**Lectionary passages:- Exodus 17 v1-7; Ezekiel 18 v1-4 v25-32;  
Philippians 2 v1-13 Matthew 21 v 23-32 Psalm 25 v1-9**

Questioning God is something we all do, often. Why? We do it on many occasions and in many situations.

1. The passages today all reflect that sort of attitude by various people over the years. Beginning in Exodus when the people are in the desert, on the way to the Promised Land and there is no water. They and the animals are desperate. WHY!! Why bring us to this dreadful place they ask Moses... (eventually God provides water from a rock).
2. In Ezekiel sin is discussed in detail. A righteous person a “good” person does wrong.  
They are punished, while a bad person, an habitual wrong doer if you like, makes a decision to repent from their wrong, to change their ways and go straight! They are forgiven.  
There is a feeling around that a good life deserves to have sins overlooked while a bad life should not be allowed to escape by turning to the right!  
God says that is how it is and his people are mad with him!  
We see this today when say a chief constable is caught speeding, he still gets prosecuted when he might feel he has done enough good things at work for his sin to be overlooked.
3. In the gospel of Matthew 21 the authority of Jesus is questioned. How can you say what you say? Who gave you the ability to heal and preach as you do? The leaders of Israel were convinced Jesus was a bad man, unrighteous before God as he did not obey the hundreds of Temple regulations, so must be bad, using powers not of God to do what he does!
4. There is no easy answer to this question. The God the leaders worshiped is not God.  
They worship by doing good things, earning a way into heaven. They worship a God they have shaped by their own rules, deciding what he wants. But that does not reflect the God and Father the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no room for answers outside of a faith in Jesus.
5. Jesus is clever, he asks about John the Baptist, the majority of the nation respected John who Baptised in the Jordon, asking for repentance, but the

leaders did not like John, they felt he was outside of God's grace, speaking and acting out of turn!

If they said that the people would rebel so the leaders cannot answer as they would like.

The same with Jesus they cannot accept Jesus for who he is, sad!

*Do we see Jesus as a revelation of God? If not then we are like the leaders of Israel who did not accept Jesus because he did not do or say what was expected of him!*

6. Finally we have the chapter 2 of Philippians which reminds us who Jesus is, he had the very nature of God but did not consider equality a thing to be grasped.....he made himself nothing taking on the nature of a servant.... He humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on a cross...so now God has exalted him to his right hand that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow ....and every tongue confess that he is Christ the Lord.
7. The Jews in the desert, people in exile in Babylon, the Pharisees in the time of Jesus

People today in all the world may question God, may not agree with him, may feel he is less than the perfect heavenly Father he is, but one day ALL will bow the knee and acknowledge him as Lord....the sooner we do it the better in my view!