

GRAMMAR

Reported Questions

When the answer to a question is simply 'Yes' or 'No', then we begin the reported question with *if* or *whether* – e.g. 'Is that really you?' ? I asked him *if / whether* it was really him

'Reporting verbs' include *wonder, want to know, ask, enquire* – e.g. I *wondered* whether it was really him.

When there are question words in the original speech, they are repeated in the reported speech. Question words include: *who, what, which, when, where, why, whom, whose, how*. E.g. 'Why do you read the Bible so much?' ? I asked *why* he read the Bible so much.

4 Re-tell these questions in reported speech:

- "If anyone says to you: 'Why are you doing this?'" [Verse 3]
- "And the owners of the ass said to them, 'What are you doing, taking the ass?'" [Verse 5]
- "Isn't it written in the Old Testament Scriptures, My house is to be named a house of prayer for all the nations?" [Verse 17]
- "And the priests said to Jesus, 'By what authority do you do these things?'" [Verse 28]
- Jesus asked: "The baptism of John, was it from God or from men?" [Verse 30].

5 Read this report of a discussion with Jesus. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the words in the box:

can
whether
read [x2]
enquire
want
reply

I asked Jesus _____ [1]
he had really needed the ass.
He replied that it was because
he _____ [2] to fulfil
Old Testament prophecies.
Then he asked if he _____ [3]
ask me a question.
He _____ [4] whether I had
ever _____ [5] the Old Testament.
I _____ [6] that I had only
read parts of it.
But, I added, I found all
that I _____ [7] really
interesting.



DOCTRINAL POINTS

Faith in God really changes things.
We must pray, believing we will
receive what we ask for.
God forgives our sins-