

## **“What Are You Searching For?”**

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“What are you searching for?” We’ve heard the question asked of us and we’ve even asked the question to ourselves. Maybe you’re searching the house for your keys or your cell phone or scrolling through pages on the computer and this question pops up. More importantly, this question is asked of all of us when it comes to life. What are we looking for when it comes to purpose and meaning in life?

Open to John 1. Here we meet Jesus shortly after His Baptism and temptation. As He begins to teach the people around Him, He’s always surrounded with a large group. They can’t seem to be away from Him. Jesus knows their hearts and He knows their needs. Everyone who comes to Jesus is searching for something.

John the Baptist had had the opportunity to baptize his cousin, the Son of God. As he recounted what had occurred at Jesus’ Baptism, seeing the Spirit and hearing the voice enabled John to finally understand Who Jesus is. John continually spoke of Jesus to his disciples as the Lamb of God come to earth for mankind. Look at verses 35-39, *“The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.”*

These disciples of John put all the other things of life aside and gave their entire focus to Jesus. They knew He was someone special, and they knew He had the power to lead them and guide them and save them! They knew because of what John said, Jesus was the One to follow!

The sad part is that in today’s world, Jesus is sometimes the last thing people think of. It begs the question, “What are people seeking?” Some people seek security. They want to make sure that everything fits together and they will feel fulfilled and safe. How many ads have you seen this past week for home security systems?

Some people seek power. They want to be the ones who make the decisions and control others under them. Because of seeking power, these people see nothing wrong in stepping on people if they need to.

Some people seek success. These are the ones who want to be looked at as having obtained the American dream of owning a big house, with multiple vehicles and a summer home where they can get away and just enjoy themselves.

Some people seek wealth. These people work very hard at making sure that above all else, they’re comfortably taken care of. Some might be rather unwilling to contribute to the needs of others but they’ll make sure they have enough.

But as a believer in Jesus Christ, even though you sometimes might fall into the same patterns as the rest of the world, you’re different because of knowing Who Jesus is. In the waters of Baptism you were made part of the family of God. But Jesus doesn’t leave you to figure out things for yourself or forget you. He wants you close. As His, Jesus seeks you and calls you His own.

So as His chosen, what are you searching for? We are all under the temptation to do exactly what the world does, but I think there are five things, we as children of Jesus need to seek above everything else.

Seek eternal life through Jesus! Jesus said, *“I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full.”* Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by faith we have eternal life. Death and Satan have been defeated. It’s so easy for us to focus on the

present, but the present isn't everything. Our time on earth is temporary. Our focus needs to be on the eternal. Time with God in heaven forever.

Seek to be a disciple of Jesus! Sometimes we fall into the trap of spending more time talk about fishing, golf, and sports rather than being in God's Word, serving in the community, helping the homeless, reaching out the lost, and the things that really matter. The history of Christianity has always grown because of God working through committed sacrificial disciples.

Seek to be a reflection of Jesus! The world will never know the beauty of Jesus unless they see that beauty in you. I know I've talked about it often, but when the world looks at you they need to see Jesus. You take on a different look. You don't into fit the world's mold. You're an individual that sees and knows Jesus as your own. I read this in one of my devotional thoughts this week, *"God's grace has a drenching about it. A wilderness about it. A whitewater, riptide, turn-you-upside-downness about it. Grace comes after you. It rewires you. From insecure to God secure. Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off."*

Seek to be a proclaimer of Jesus! John Wesley once said. *"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field."* The mission field is just outside these doors! St. Francis of Assisi said it so clearly, *"Wherever you go preach Christ, and when necessary use words."*

Friends, our world desperately needs to hear the words of Jesus Christ in everything we say! It's gone so far away from Jesus that the only way it can come back from the path it's on is by you and me being filled with the Holy Spirit proclaiming Jesus Christ in everything we say and do!

Seek to truly love Jesus! As it says in Scripture, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind."* Be so wrapped up in Jesus Christ you can't stop loving Him and sharing Him with everyone!

Search for Jesus with everything that's in you! Realize that true peace happens as you let go and focus on Him above everything else. As you do, it will not only change you but also the world around you!