

ARE YOU LOOKING?

A Spiritual Quest

Ecc 12:13

A quest is a search or journey to seek something. In old times the quest was usually set by the King to prove the loyalty of His knight or subjects.

We understand this in the Physical realm but have you thought about a spiritual quest?

- 1- Many have sought satisfaction in pleasure, fun, money, education, their jobs, and immoral relationships with others.
- 2- So did wise aging Solomon of ancient Israel. He tried it all, saw it all and did it all.
 - a- He concluded, "All is vanity and striving after the wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:14). He came up empty.
 - b- He discovered that life is futile and not worth living without God's guidance (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
- 3- Instead of looking inside our limited, fallible life for direction, we ought to look to the God who made us. Divine guidance for us is only in His inspired Word. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalms 119:105).
- 4- Without the light of divine revelation to help our search, we're groping in the dark like a **blind man looking for a black cat in a dark room.**

Transition: So, where are you in your spiritual quest? Do you feel the need for a closer relationship with God?

Most people are searching for answers about life's purpose and meaning. In my spiritual search, I have **found** the answer in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Discussion:

I- Discover life's prize.*

A- Jesus tells a parable about the quest for the supreme good in life.

- 1- The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought It" (Matthew 13:45-46).

2- In about 1985, a gem dealer strolled the aisles of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. He saw a potato-sized, dull violet-blue stone. He pounced on it for \$10. It turned out to be a 1,900 carat sapphire, almost twice as big as any in existence. It appraised for \$2.4 million! You think, "Why I can't I be so fortunate?"

B- Yet, you are -- **if you're searching** for life's most prized lesson!

1- The Son of God assures us that a right relationship with God under heaven's reign is the most valuable thing in the world.

2- The only real treasure in this life is eternal truth outlasting this passing life. Jesus promises us: **"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life"** (Matt 19:29). (This verse teaches that when we become Christians and share Christ's welfare we will also share in Christ's victory).

3- Jesus challenges us, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it....For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mk 8:35-37).

a- Where you will be in eternity depends on the choices you make in this life.

b- Our choices are the hinges of destiny.

II- God is not found accidentally.

A- **"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). (Jewish exiles in Babylon: Application for us in the age of the Gospel, both Jew and Gentile).**

1- Is 55 is about the great invitation.

a- Verse 1- Simply 'come.', Come to receive, Vs 2: 'The price is paid.'

b- Vv 6-7- Seek the Lord, bring repentance, receive mercy. (All these verses are about the free grace and mercy of God, available to all). [Note Acts 17:27]

c- 'While He may be found'- There is a time limit. There will come a time when seeking and groping after the Lord will be no more He calls today but tomorrow the door may be shut. (Luke 13:25) **In context: To the Jewish nation but we apply it more broadly.**

- d- *When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'*
- 2- Jesus promises that true seekers will discover God's good purpose for their lives:
 - a- ***"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened....If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"*** (Matt 7:7-8, 11).
 - b- What you find in your spiritual quest is in direct proportion to your desire to find the truth of God.

Conclusion:

- 1- Your spiritual quest is to simply begin searching for truth. "What is truth? Thy word is truth" says Jesus.
- 2- Salvation is a decision to know truth and to obey truth,
 - a- Hear, believe, repent, be baptised for remission of sin and live faithfully.
 - b- That's the gospel plan that we invite you to obey this morning.