

“SIR, WE WISH TO SEE JESUS”

JOHN 12:21

INTRODUCTION: [READ JOHN 12.20-23]

1. Those who desired to see Jesus were not interested in His physical appearance but sought an audience with Him.
2. Jesus’ response indicated that the time had come when the entire world would see Him – hear His message. (John 12.23,32)
3. When those in the world desire to see Jesus, we must be ready.

I. THE GENTILES APPROACH PHILIP

- A. The Gentiles overcame great prejudice to see Jesus.
 1. Gentiles were unwelcome. (John 4.7-9; Acts 10.28)
 2. Yet they did not prevent the hypocrisy of the Jews to taint their view and image of Christ. (Rom. 2.17-24)
- B. These Gentiles were looking to see Jesus! (John 12.21)
 1. Why did these Gentiles approach Philip? (Matt. 26.69)
 2. The answer does not lie with us. (Acts 8.35; 1 Cor. 2.2)
 3. Do we preach Christ or do we preach the church of Christ? (John 14.6; Acts 4.12; Matt. 28.18-20)
 4. It is Christ who is to be magnified. (Phil. 1.20)

II. ARE WE SHOWING JESUS TO THE WORLD?

- A. Where are those who are looking for Jesus? (Acts 18.9,10)
 1. *“for I have people in this city”* Not preordained.
 2. *“speak and do not keep silent”* Do not be afraid.
 3. *“I am with you”* We do not have to share the gospel alone, for He is always with us. (cf. Heb. 13.5)
- B. We do so through His word. (1 Cor. 15.1-4)
 1. Be careful with assumptions. (John 9.35,36)
 2. Let the word speak for itself. (John 1.1-3,14)
- C. We do so through our example. (Gal. 2.20)
 1. Is Christ manifested in our lives? (John 13.34,35)
 2. When Christ lives in us, others will seek us out for answers and studies. (1 Pet. 3.15)

CONCLUSION: Jesus invites all to come to Him.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

November 12, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

PSALM 1: “BLESSED IS THE MAN”

We all want to be happy. Many psychologists and behavior experts believe that our actions are directly related to what makes us happy. It is common for one to do those things that bring him happiness or make him feel good while avoiding that which brings pain. Why do many act in ways that are self-destructive? Somehow the pain they endure is overshadowed by the pleasure they feel.

There is no book that is so completely dedicated to the happiness of man than the Bible. There are no more happy people than those who have given their lives to serve God. It is when we serve ourselves and our own selfish desires that misery soon follows. But those who serve God are blessed beyond measure. No wonder the psalmist proclaimed, *“Happy are the people whose God is the LORD”* (Ps. 144.15)!

The beginning of the book of Psalms simply begins, *“Blessed in the man”* (Ps. 1.1). And if we want to feel truly content with a happiness that is profound, then we merely need to apply the principles that follow. While the world promises happiness in unbridled lust and sinful indulgences, the psalmist describes the blessed as the one *“who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful”* How counterintuitive to the way of the world. But God’s ways work!
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I AM THANKFUL FOR PRAYER

JOHN 11:41

INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you mean it when you say, “I’m praying for you”? (Eph. 1.15,16; Phil. 1.3,4; Col. 1.3; 1 Thess. 1.2)
2. Paul prayed for his brethren because he believed in the power of prayer. (Rom. 1.9; 1 Tim. 2.1,2)
3. We have been blessed with prayer. For that, we are thankful.

I. IDENTIFIED

- A. My prayers are heard and answered.
 1. **1 PETER 3.12:** “*His ears are open to their prayers*”
 2. The One who can do anything leans in to listen.
- B. My prayers are effective.
 1. **JAMES 5.16:** “*The effective, fervent prayer*”
 2. “Effective” (ergon): Literally, work. Prayer works!
 3. What makes my prayers so effective? (Jer. 32.27)
- C. My prayers are hard.
 1. **ROMANS 8.26:** “*the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.*” Literally, works together with us.
 2. **ROMANS 8.26:** “*the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*”

II. EXEMPLIFIED

- A. Jesus believed in prayer.
 1. He taught us to pray. (Matt. 6.5-13; Luke 18.1)
 2. He spent time in prayer. (Matt. 14.13,23)
- B. Jesus was thankful for prayer.
 1. Did Jesus perform miracles? (John 11.45,47; Acts 2.22)
 2. Lazarus was raised from the dead to give glory to God. (John 11.4,11,21,27,32,40)
 3. Jesus expressed gratitude for prayer. (John 11.41,42) direction. (Rom. 8.14-17; cf. Gal. 5.18). But how?

III. APPLIED

- A. Spend more time in prayer.
 1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.17:** “*pray without ceasing*”
 2. “Without ceasing”: Literally, without a break.
- B. Express gratitude verbally. (John 11.41)

CONCLUSION: God who is good answers prayers. Be thankful!

THE GOD WHO WANTS TO BE FOUND

A man with his Bible in hand approached his neighbor and asked him, “Have you found Jesus?” His neighbor responded sarcastically, “Why? Is He lost?” Swift came the answer, “No, He is not lost. But without Him, you are.”

What does it mean to seek the LORD? There are two ways in which that phrase is used. First, we seek out the favor of God. In Deuteronomy, God predicted that the children of Israel would not remain faithful. Their sins would lead them into captivity where they would “*utterly perish from the land*” and would “*be left few in number among the nations ...and serve gods, the work of men’s hands*” (Deut. 4.25-28). When they find themselves suffering the punishment of God, “*from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him*” (Deut. 4.29). After being punished for their wickedness, God promised that when they wanted to be restored back to God’s favor and seek out His forgiveness, they will find it.

Seeking the Lord also refers to seeking out the help of God. King Asa’s reign over Judah was cut short because of a disease he developed in his feet. The final words written about his life were that “*he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians*” (2 Chr. 16.12). King Asa did not seek help from God to cure his disease. Therefore, “*he died in the forty-first year of his reign*” (2 Chr. 16.13).

If you want to find the Lord, how can God be found? Through the prophet Isaiah, God tells us that He has sent forth His word so that we can know Him and submit to His ways. (Isa. 55.8-11). If you put that into the context, this passage is introduced with the words, “*Seek the Lord*” (Isa. 55.6). Seeking the Lord begins with His word. God has given us a book by which we can seek out and obtain His favor. To do so, we are to prepare our hearts. Israel “*set their heart to seek the LORD*” (2 Chr. 11.16). In contrast, Rehoboam did evil because “*he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD*” (2 Chr. 12.14). The idea is to have a desire, make a decision, and then be determined to turn to the word of God so as to learn how to gain His favor.

God has made Himself available to be found. Anyone who wants to find God will be able to find Him (Acts 17.27). No one will ever be able to say that they wanted to have a relationship with God but never had the chance. But we are to “*seek the Lord while He may be found*” (Isa. 55.6). Seek Him today while there is still a chance. Tomorrow may be too late.