

## LOOKING FOR GOD

### Isaiah 55:6-13

**Introduction:** It seems to be human habit to not "seek the Lord God" until he/she is in dire need and when all is going well, God is not needed. Isaiah, trying to arouse Israel out of its defeatist, materialistic attitude cried out for Israel to *"...seek the Lord..."*

- In the day of social and moral decay, Amos cried out for Israel to *"...seek the Lord..." (Amos 5)*
- Job in near despair cried out *"...Oh that I knew where I might find Him..." (Job 23:3)*
- Jesus told His disciples that He was going to have to leave them and out of fear, one of the disciples begged Jesus to *"...show us the Father..." (John 14:8)*
- The philosopher seeks the meaning of existence. The moralist seeks ways of reformation. the sorrowing seek consolation and hope. The Christian seeks a vision of the beauty of heaven.
- The Bible's answer to the universal hunger is two fold:

### I. WHERE TO LOOK FOR GOD

#### 1. Jesus said to **"look around you..."**

- God feeds the birds, clothes the flowers, sends the rain on the just and unjust, knows every need, causes the sun to rise, speaks through seeds growing trees, the seasons.
- All nature is the living proof of God. It is God's World, Find God by looking at His handiwork all around you.

#### 2. Jesus said to **"look behind you..."**

- *"...Search the scripture....have you not read?...It is written....You know the commandments..."*
- The Old Testament record of God's work is a source book, textbook, a delight, a library that Jesus used and quoted from.
- History is God's revelation of Himself as His "footprints" are in the sands of time.

#### 3. Jesus said to **"look within you..."**

- *"...What think ye...? Which of you that is father...How say ye...? Why judge ye not even of yourselves...? Which of you that has a friend...?"*
- Not some difficult thing to do, not asking what others might think, but what do YOU think.
- *"...If ye then being evil, KNOW how to give good gifts.....how much more your heavenly Father..."*
- God can be found by looking within our own selves for we are made in His image.

#### 4. Jesus said to **"look at Him..."**

- *"...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father....No man knoweth the Father save the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him...No man cometh unto the Father but by Me... All power is given unto me.....The Father hath committed all judgment unto the Son... We beheld His glory...as of the only begotten of the Father...No man hath seen God, the only begotten.....hath declared Him..."*
- Find God by His self-revelation in the person, words, character, life, death, resurrection and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

## II. CONDITIONS FOR FINDING GOD

### 1. *"...Be Still and know that I am God..."*

- There must be a condition of QUIETNESS.
  - Some of the greatest things in life are said in whispers: mother to her baby, lover to his/her sweetheart, dying moments, private prayer.
- God never shouted anyone down.
  - Remember Elijah on the mountain when God spoke not as an earthquake, a wind or a fire, but *"...in a still quiet voice..."*
- Sadly in most church services no one is quiet enough to hear God for there is too many talking and little listening. There is too much of the world within us, we think too much of ourselves.
- We must learn how to have a quiet mind, heart and tongue, learn to look on life with quiet eyes, imitate Jesus in search for solitude, quietness.
- Unless one disciplines ones self and practices finding quietness, he/she will not find God.

### 2. *"...He that willeth to do shall know..."*

- There must be the condition of willingness to change.
  - One cannot expect his/her experience with God to leave him/her unchanged.
    - Direction, values, perspective and character will all be changed for being with God changes one's whole personality.
- Obedience is the means of discovery, of meeting, finding God.
- The pure in heart (sincere in motive) see God.
- Sincerity is absolutely necessary to seeing spiritual things.
- To be willing to do as God reveals, enables and commands is the path to understanding.
- Being resistant and rebellious never finds God.

### 3. *"...He that cometh to God must believe..He is rewarder of them that diligently seek Him..."*

- There must be a condition of confidence.
- The grounds for such needed confidence is not one's personal informed sincerity in seeking of God, but in God's seeking us.

### 4. *"...Let the wicked forsake his way...unrighteousness his thoughts, and let him return..."*

- There must be a condition of penitence.
  - A person must be repentant of his/her sinful ways in all sincerity.

## CONCLUSION:

1. When a person begins to look for God in all sincerity, he/she will certainly find God for God has been looking for that person already.
2. God is always serious and expects those who come to Him to be also serious.
3. To find God, one must look for God on God's terms.
4. Imitate Jesus.