

Note from Pastor Steve

We are all seeking after something in life. Some of us have plans to move from here to there, work at this or that place, retire, spending time with family, or just time to spend on a hobby. Maybe, your at the point in life where such appetites have left you. Peace and calmness are all you seek. The truth is that we are all seeking something. Our nature to Seek is a part of what it means to be created in the image of God.

God throughout scripture is found seeking. He seeks after Israel. Abraham was spending time with his family and God sought him out. Moses was in the wilderness when God sought him by revealing himself in a burning bush. David was just a shepherd boy in a field when God sent His messenger looking for him. James and John were fishing when Jesus sought them out. Matthew was at work. Paul was on the road. Story after story of God's seeking can be found in scripture. God seeks out His followers. Seeking is in the nature of God.

Jesus in His great sermon on the mount when talking about worry He says this statement. "Seek first [God's] kingdom and [God's] righteousness" Matthew 6:33. It was not a matter of seeking that is the issue with us. It is "What are we seeking?" that is the real question.

I have used the phrase "times like these" many times over this year. Talking about the storms that our world is going through, the issues of the virus, the election, the riots, and the unrest in our world. The reality is that there is always issues. Twenty years ago, it was another election. After that for many years our focus was on terrorism, then it moved to the crashing economy, then to racism and the environment. It is always something. Where something out there can over take our focus and catch our thoughts. These things lead us down roads to seek after things of this world.

We each have a choice of what we will seek on this day. I would encourage you that in the midst of the storm of this world that will always come. To seek after the kingdom. Seek the God that is seeking you even now. In John 1 when Jesus calls Nathanael to come follow after him. Nathanael questions if Jesus is worth following because he has come from Nazareth. Jesus shares with him that even before he came to meet Jesus. Jesus saw him under the fig tree. Jesus is seeking us out even before we realize. You are being sought after by God. Remember in the midst of the storms of this world that the one seeking you can calm the storms, over came death and the grave, suffered the losses you have felt, and wants to give you his love and grace.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - Luke 19:10

The Eternal Goal

By: Oswald Chambers

By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing...I will bless you...

Genesis 22:16-17

Abraham, at this point, has reached where he is in touch with the very nature of God. He now understands the reality of God.

My goal is God Himself...

At any cost, dear Lord, by any road.

“At any cost...by any road” means submitting to God’s way of bringing us to the goal.

There is no possibility of questioning God when He speaks, if He speaks to His own nature in me. Prompt obedience is the only result. When Jesus says, “Come,” I simply come; when He says, “Let go,” I let go; when He says, “Trust God in this matter,” I trust. This work of obedience is the evidence that the nature of God is in me.

God’s revelation of Himself to me is influenced by my character, not by God’s character.

’Tis because I am ordinary,

Thy ways so often look ordinary to me.

It is through the discipline of obedience that I get to the place where Abraham was and I see who God is. God will never be real to me until I come face to face with Him in Jesus Christ. Then I will know and can boldly proclaim, “In all the world, my God, there is none but Thee, there is none but Thee.”

The promises of God are of no value to us until, through obedience, we come to understand the nature of God. We may read some things in the Bible every day for a year and they may mean nothing to us. Then, because we have been obedient to God in some small detail, we suddenly see what God means and His nature is instantly opened up to us. “All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen...” (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our “Yes” must be born of obedience; when by obedience we ratify a promise of God by saying, “Amen,” or, “So be it.” That promise becomes ours.

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

— C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity