

JESUS IS OUR SEEKING KING

1. REVELATION OF JESUS

- A. The revelation of Jesus changes us – it gives us power to do what He has called us to do. **1 Peter 1:13**
 - I. The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. **Daniel 11:32**
- B. Who is Jesus? What revelation of Jesus will change us? He is a seeking, inviting and rescuing King.
 - I. Jesus came to rescue broken people and demonstrate this is always His heart.
 - II. Those He embraced, forgave and charged were some of the most broken individuals.
 - III. People that were despised, sinners, foreigners, strangers, outcasts, poor, sick, needy and the forgotten.
- C. When the church steps into the footsteps of Jesus, she gives herself to the outcast, the poor and the sinner.
 - I. Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway. **Psalm 85:13**

2. THE SEEKING KING

- A. The good news is that God has taken the initiative to seek and save.
 - I. *“The heathens spread a table for their gods, but the Christian God does it the other way around. He spreads the table for His children. In the other religions people always seek God. In the Christian faith, God seeks man.”* Reinhard Bonnke
- B. “Again, 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**
 - I. If the lost have this kind of worth to Jesus, do we need to adjust our value system?
 - II. The parables intrigue us with their mystery and challenge us to discover their hidden truth.
 - III. Pictures, worth a thousand words, these three parables have similar themes but different perspectives.
- C. In **Luke 15:1-2** we read, Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”
 - I. Context: Jesus ministered to the marginalized: to women, children, the poor, the sinner, and stranger.
 - II. “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.” **Luke 7:22**
 - III. “But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.” **Luke 14:13**
 - IV. A woman who was a sinner brings an alabaster flask of fragrant oil to anoint His feet. **Luke 7:37**
 - V. The Samaritan. (Good Samaritan, **Luke 10**), Ten lepers healed, one returns to give thanks (**Luke 17**)
 - VI. The Canaanite woman (**Matthew 15**). Who does Jesus minister to? Whoever will receive Him.
- D. The lost sheep. **Luke 15:3-7**. So He spoke this parable: Jesus starts out with, “what man among you?”
 - I. Interesting in that Jesus is speaking of Himself. He is the good shepherd. **John 10:11**.
 - II. He is the great shepherd of the sheep. **Heb 13:20**. God incarnate is placing Himself in their shoes.
 - III. He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, coming in human likeness. **Phil 2:7**
 - IV. Jesus mentions a lost sheep. The sheep wanders off by itself. The thing about sheep is that they stray.
 - V. The lost sheep is then completely dependent on the shepherd to come and find it.
 - VI. The shepherd goes after the one, which is lost until he finds it. He searches until He finds it.
 - VII. Notice the shepherd’s response, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.”
 - VIII. He is not angry, frustrated or disappointed. He identifies the sheep as His. This is God’s heart.
 - IX. I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. **Luke 15:7**
 - X. Sinners are precious to Jesus. He’s willing to leave the 99 in the wilderness (deserted or lonely place).
- E. The lost coin. **Luke 15:8-10**
 - I. The ten silver coins were most likely her dowry. They were worn as part of the wedding attire.
 - II. They were her possession and means of support in the event that her husband died or left.
 - III. She lights a lamp to find the lost coin. She sweeps the house. She searches carefully until she finds it.
 - IV. The coin in this story is completely dependent on the woman to find it.
 - V. Notice the woman’s response: she calls her friends and neighbors together.
 - VI. Saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ See God’s heart.
 - VII. Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
- F. The prodigal son. We see a waiting Father constantly look and searching to see if His son will return.
 - I. Not only did Jesus seek us, but He constantly seeks us.
 - II. My story when I was about 6 or 7 years old walking to chapel. The Father came seeking me.

3. SEEKING RIPE FRUIT

- A. The parable of the barren fig tree. **Luke 13:6-9**
 - I. A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.
 - II. Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down.
 - III. Let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. If you find no fruit then cut it down.
 - IV. Jesus is the one who comes seeking ripe fruit.
- B. The story of Zacchaeus. **Luke 19:1-10**
 - I. Here is a man who is despised. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.
 - II. He wants to see Jesus is, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.
 - III. So he runs ahead and climbs a Sycamore tree growing along the route that Jesus will travel.
 - IV. The sycamore (fig-mulberry tree) – Can grow to 60 feet with wide-spreading branches providing shade.
 - Its leaves are heart-shaped and fragrant. They resemble mulberry tree leaves.
 - The figs grow directly from the trunk itself on little sprigs, and in clusters like the grape.
 - V. There is an interesting word play in this story.
 - Zacchaeus mean pure or innocent
 - *sykomorea* - The sycamore tree is fig-mulberry tree.
 - *sykophanteō* - means to exact money wrongfully.
 - Literally is means to show figs. From a fig informant in the illegal trade of figs.
 - VI. In contrast to the fig tree parable of Luke 13.
 - Zacchaeus is the one guilty of extortion. Yet Jesus sees something different. Jesus sees ripe fruit.
 - Jesus seeks out a sinner, but sees who he will become: one who is pure and innocent.
 - Jesus picks the ripe fruit.
 - “Zacchaeus make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”
 - VII. Does Zacchaeus seek Jesus or in the bigger picture has the seeking King come to Jericho to seek him?
 - VIII. “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” **Luke 19:10**
- C. When were the times that Jesus sought me out? I was living in a fraternity.
 - I. Where does Jesus go? He goes to where the people are.
 - II. Jesus is constantly looking for the people others do not see – “the invisibles”, outcasts, and forgotten.
 - III. Following Jesus means going where He goes and being where He is.
- D. There are roughly 22 accounts of miracles by the disciples in Acts; all but one, take place in the market place.
 - I. Jesus was for the people.
 - II. In **Mark 6:55-56** we see the reaction to Jesus’ presence.
 - They began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was.
 - Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment.
 - And as many as touched Him were made well.
 - III. We follow in the steps of the seeking King when we take His Kingdom to people who need it.
 - IV. This is what we were created for.

4. MINISTRY

- A. What is the Kingdom? Rule & Reign, Jesus is King. Let’s find out workshop.
- B. The seeking King
 - I. Release and taste the kingdom. Taste and see that He is good.
- C. Does anyone have ongoing pain in your body or emotions? Stand up.
 - I. Everyone else. Step into the shoes of Jesus. Go and seek someone right now that Jesus is leading you to.
 - II. Invite the kingdom. Invite Jesus the King.
 - III. Declare Jesus is King over the pain or situation.
 - IV. Invite Jesus to rule and reign over the situation.
- D. Bless what the Father is doing.
- E. Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. **John 5:19**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10 (NKJV) Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ 10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 13:6-9 (NKJV) He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ 8 But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that[a] you can cut it down.’”

Luke 19:1-10 (NKJV) Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Mark 6:54-56 (NKJV) And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 55 ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

MIRACLES BY THE HANDS OF THE DISCIPLES IN ACTS

1. Peter raises Tabitha (9:36-42)
2. Paul raises Eutychus (20:9-12)
3. Peter and John heal the lame man at the Temple gate (3:1-16)
4. Ananias cures Saul of his blindness (9:17-18)
5. Peter heals the paralytic Aeneas (9:33-35)
6. Paul cures the lame man of Lystra (14:7-9)
7. Paul heals Publius' father of dysentery (28:7-8)
8. Paul exorcises girl possessed of divining spirit (16:16-18)
9. Peter strikes Ananias and Saphira dead (5:5-11)
10. Paul temporarily blinds the sorcerer Elymas (13:9-12)
11. Paul shakes off viper from his arm (28:3-6)
12. Many signs and wonders done by the Apostles in Jerusalem (2:43)
13. Apostles perform signs and wonders among the people (5:12)
14. Peter's shadow cures many in the streets (5:15)
15. Peter heals multitudes from outside Jerusalem (5:16)
16. Stephen works great signs and wonders (6:8)
17. Philip cures crippled and possessed in Samaria (8:6-8, 13)
18. Miracles worked by Paul and Barnabas on mission journey (14:3)
19. Great signs and wonders done by Paul and Barnabas among the Gentiles (15:12)
20. Miracles worked through objects touched by Paul (19:11-12)
21. Paul heals all the sick brought to him on Malta (28:9)
22. The disciples speak in languages they don't know. (2:4)

OTHER MIRACLES IN ACTS

23. Saul struck blind on the road to Damascus (9:8-9)
24. Herod slain by an angel (12:23)
25. Sound of a wind and sight like a fire at Pentecost (2:2-6)
26. Earthquake at a prayer meeting (4:31)
27. Prison doors open for the Apostles (5:17-25)
28. Peter released from prison by an angel (12:5-11)
29. Chains fall from Paul and Silas (16:25-30)
30. Philip snatched by the Spirit (8:39)