

WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

1. Luke 7:24-26

"After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see?"

2. INTRODUCTION

The need for this study has become increasingly more important because many people are turning to Christianity and looking for something to fill a void in their life. During Jesus' lifetime, crowds of people also came to Jesus for the same reasons. Jesus took note of this and addressed the crowds by asking them a simple question: "What are you seeking?" Jesus called to their attention that many were looking to him for all the wrong reasons. Subsequently, most of them decided to look elsewhere.

Over the past 30 years, our society has dramatically changed which has drastically changed what people are looking for when they chose to pursue God. This change has not only affected those who are looking for God outside the church; these same reasons have also infiltrated the church. Many have chosen to leave a church that is fundamentally sound in doctrine and the lives of its members reflect a total commitment to living by the Bible. This beckons the title of this study: "What are you seeking?"

3. What are people looking for?

A. A church

- i. Larger facility
- ii. More people in attendance
- iii. A suitable partner (marriage)
- iv. A more charismatic preacher
- v. Children's program

B. Some kind of religious experience

- i. Some kind of warm, peaceful inner-feeling
- ii. A congregational excitement
- iii. Praise worship (particularly attractive to young people)
- iv. Tongue-speaking & Healings (Charismatic Christianity)

C. Friendship

- i. People your own age
- ii. People with similar life experiences
- iii. People you can hang out with
- iv. Someone who will listen to your problems

D. A place to appease a guilty conscience

- i. You were taught at an early age that you should go to church
- ii. You've done things that you are ashamed of
- iii. Looking for forgiveness

- iv. Counselling services (marriage, parenting or personal)
- v. Confessional

4. Again, What are you looking for?
5. **Mark 10:17-23**
 - A. This young man came looking for something; possibly to appease a guilty conscience
 - B. He didn't come looking for a relationship with God
 - C. He left sad because what he wanted, Jesus wasn't offering
6. If the reasons include any of the above, then this study is not for you.
 - A. At the conclusion of these series of studies you decide to move in a different direction, then it will become clear that your reason(s) for engaging in these studies is based on ulterior motives. You may not recognize it, but it will become clear to those studying the Bible with you that God is not the central-focus of your heart.
 - i. You will walk away like the man in the preceding scripture and find a group that will accept your idea of what Christianity should look like.
 - ii. Seeking God may not look like what you think it should look like
7. **However, if your sole reason for studying the Bible is to find a relationship with God, then continue on.**
8. **Acts 17:26-27**
 - A. God determines the times and places each person lives
 - B. He does this so that men will seek Him, reach out for Him and find Him
 - C. He is not far from anyone
 - D. A Christian meeting you is not by chance – but of God
9. **John 4:23-24**
 - A. God seeks men (Acts 17 taught men must seek God)
 - B. Men who want to worship Him in spirit and in truth
10. **Acts 17:10-11**
 - A. Read and study the Bible daily for your own convictions
11. **Jeremiah 29:11-14**
 - A. God has an individual plan for your life
 - B. A plan to prosper you – with hope and a future
 - C. You will find God when you seek Him with all your heart
12. **Matthew 6:25-34**
 - A. God knows your needs
 - B. Seek first His kingdom and righteousness
 - C. Then God will give you everything you need
13. **Matthew 7:7-8**
 - A. Seek and God guarantees you will find Him
 - B. Ask God for help