

FINDING GOD

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jer 29:13)

God is “omnipresent”. He is everywhere. Unfortunately, however, most people will not find Him. Paul reminded the philosophers on Mar’s Hill that God determined the time when they would be born and the exact places where they would live, and then added: **“God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.” (Acts 17:27)**. Even though God specifically created each of us in a special way so we would seek for Him, most will not. Jeremiah explained why! He wrote that the key to “finding” God was to seek Him with “all your heart”.

Unfortunately, the way that leads to destruction is quite popular. It has a wide gate and a broad way and makes no demands. It is easy to go with the flow and be one of the crowd. Only a few, however, will dare to make the sacrifice and pay the price to walk the narrow road that leads to an intimate relationship with God (Matt. 7:13 - 14).

Nehemiah was seeking for God with all his heart. Thousands knew the horrible conditions in Jerusalem but didn’t really seem to care. Nehemiah, by contrast, became a broken man when he heard the news. He wrote: **“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” (Neh 1:4)** This agony of heart continued day and night for four long months before he dared to enter into the presence of the king with a sad face.

Ezra was a man who sought God with all his heart. He devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord and teaching its decrees to the people of God (Ezra 7:10). When he realized that the people of God did not really care about the Law of God he said: **“When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled.” (Ezra 9:3)**

Daniel also sought for God with all of his heart. For three weeks he mourned, fasted, and prayed to understand the revelation of God (Dan. 10:1 - 3). When God responded to his prayers with a vision, Daniel wrote: **“I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.” (Dan 10:7)** The men with Daniel knew something awesome was taking place, but apparently were not seeking for God with all their heart like Daniel was.

Saul of Tarsus was seeking for God with all his heart, that’s why he found Him. On the Damascus Road Jesus appeared to him in a blinding vision. Then Jesus spoke to him in the Hebrew (or Aramaic) tongue (Acts 26:14). Those who were with Paul saw the same light that he saw, and heard the same words that he heard. Even though these men were Hebrews **“they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking” (Acts 22:9)** Why not? Apparently, even though they were religious men, they were not seeking for God with all of their heart.

Jesus was seeking God with all of His heart. As he approached the hour of His supreme sacrifice He prayed that the name of God would be glorified. Then God responded with a voice from heaven: **“I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” (John 12:28)** Remarkably, no one understood those words but Jesus. Some thought it thundered. Others heard the same sound and thought an angel had spoken. God is a Jealous God and will not reveal Himself to those who have only a casual interest in knowing Him.

Do you want to find God? He isn’t far away! He is right there beside you! If you seek Him with all your heart you will find Him! If, however, you want to “first go bury your father, or “first” bid farewell to family and friends, or “first” to anything other than seek Him with all your heart, He will forever be hidden from view. (Lk. 9:57 - 62). We must seek “first” the Kingdom of God!

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” (Matt 16:24-25)