

WHAT TYPE OF SEEKER ARE YOU? - Luke 12:22-31

Intro:

- A. **Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
1. The work “seek is found some 246 times in the KJV, and seeking some 14 times!
 - a. Several Hebrew works are used in the O.T. - denoting to:
 - (1) To Follow
 - (2) To search
 - (3) To inspect
 - (4) To Meander - without no real purpose
 - b. The primary word used in search of God are “dawrash- to search and pursuit; as in **Isaiah 55:6** (NKJV)6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
 - (1) and “bawkash” - is generally the primary word used for mans activities - “basic desire - as a search for water in **Isaiah 41:17** (NKJV) - 17 “The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
 - c. In the Greek N.T. there are 4 words translated - with the same notations as the Hebrew words - the word found in **Hebrews 11:6** is the word linked with seeking after God - 934.ε̅
ēiz ē̅ , ep-eed-zay-teh'-o; from 1909 and 2212; to search (inquire) for; 𐤇𐤃 to demand, to crave:— desire, enquire, seek (after, for).
 - (1) So the word of God requires us to “CRAVE” after God - which reminds me of:
- B. A TV show on the History Channel called “Curse of Oak Island” - which I record and watch as I am trying to wind down for the nights rest.
1. It is an interesting show in that it shows what men and women have done over 200 years of searching for a treasure that supposedly has been buried on the island.
 2. Many differing theories are who did it, what is buried there and whether there really is a curse - waiting to claim the 7th life.
- C. I mention this in my introduction because there is an element to this show that intrigues me.
1. We all are fascinated by a treasure map - I don't think there is a person alive who would not like to find buried treasure and I am sure we would all like the X marks the spot - so that we would not have to go thru too much trouble or effort.
 2. But, this is not the reality - many yes have stumbled across a treasure thru the ages but very few.
- D. I want to use this analogy with regards to the Scriptures.
1. The Word of God is a treasure map of wealth in knowledge and understanding - it is God's treasure map to a wonderful place “called Heaven” and it has been poured over, dug into analyzed and taught for centuries.
 - a. Just like physical treasure hunters - we often just want the treasure to be laying around without all the hardships.
 - b. Spiritually speaking many are like that with regards to God's Word - And just like those on Oak Island, many have come up empty, some have found a few treasures but nothing to keep them going - others just don't want to put the effort into it (study - **2 Tim 2:15** (NKJV) - 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.) and then there are those who are willing to give their lives for it.
 - (1) They want the instant answer - the quick phone call to the preacher etc. This attitude is not what the Bible emphasizes when it comes to seeking after God.
- E. As we contemplate God and our relationship with Him, His Son and His Spirit - what type of Seeker are we?

1. Are we surface seekers - only happy to find what is laying in open sight?
 2. Are we luke warm seekers - only happy to put the effort in if it does not require too much effort and to deep a a dig?
 3. Or are we seekers - who will not stop until we have in our hands the actual treasure or we have the answers we need to adequately and definitively answer the questions - put before us?
 4. What type of seeker are you? Because, the bible talks about this very subject!
- F. Read - **Luke 12:22-31** (NKJV) - 22 Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? 25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? 29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.
1. We sing the song - “SEEK YE FIRST” ----- and this is a wonderful song - but do we really understand what it means?
 - a. **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) - 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 - b. **Matthew 7:7** (NKJV) - 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

II. **Those who seek after the Bread! (The physical things of life)**

- A. In the temptation of Jesus - **Matthew 4:1-4** we see this is a ploy of Satan
1. **Matthew 4:1-4** (NKJV) - 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”
 2. It is the same things he deceived Eve with in the garden of Eden - **Genesis 3:1-6** (NKJV) - 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
- B. Satan knows that we can be lured by Physical Bread and become fixated seekers of this alone, but we need to be Spiritual Bread Seekers - I am sure that brother Ed covered this is his lesson this past weekend - on the “bread of Life”.
1. In **John 6:22-27** (NKJV) - 22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had

gone away alone— 23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— 24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” 26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

2. The “bread of Life” offers those who diligently seek Him “food that endures to everlasting life”
 - a. This is the bread that we should be seeking - craving as in **Matthew 5:6** (NKJV) - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- C. The question we must ask ourselves am I a physical or spiritual bread “seeker”

III. **Those who are Glory Seekers (the praise of men not the “praise of God”)**

- A. **John 8:48-50** (NKJV) - 48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” 49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges.
 1. Many men in scriptures sought their own glory - but the greatest teacher who ever lived and walked the face of this earth - sought not his own Glory.
 - a. In the garden of Gethsemane - He prayed “not my will”
 2. Jesus - would receive Glory and Honor - from the Father - despised and afflicted here on earth but Glorified in heaven. - cf. **John 17:21**
- B. **John 12:42-43** (NKJV) - 42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.
 1. You have heard me say and I say it again - if no one comments on the lesson or says well done it matters not to me - I want God’s approval - when He says you preached my word - as I charged you to do - **2 Tim 4:1-4** (NKJV) - 1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
 2. Preaching the truth of God’s Word means that the messenger has very few friends - the prophets of old who told the people of their sins were not very popular - many lost their lives, many rejected - however in all this God was glorified since TRUTH was proclaimed.
 3. When we interact with those of the World and we are the Lights that God wants us to be - we will recognize that the glory of men means very little.
 - a. Just last week in the NFL playoffs - a player who was recognized as an amazing player thru his career is now known for the tackle that was not there that caused the “New Orleans Saints” to miss the Championship game.
 - b. How quickly the praise and glory heaped upon us by men is turned into scorn and ridicule.
 - c. But the Glory of God in our lives - brightly beaming is for eternity.
- C. **Ephesians 3:20-21** (NKJV) - 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
 1. All that we do - all that we say - our every breath of our life is not to seek the pat on the back of

self - but the Glory that we bring to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- a. **John 17:20** - our Unity is not for us - it is so the World may see God and see His Glory
 2. We are the Temple of God today - built by living stones - the habitation of God and His Glory is seen in us.
 - a. We sing that song - "We are the World's Bible" - and I ask us all this question if we are seeking our own glory (is not our type blurred) - What type of Glory Seeker are we to be?
- IV. The last of the Negative seekers are **Those who are Fault Seekers** - no matter how perfect something may be there are always going to be those who seek fault.
- A. **Philippians 2:14-16** (NKJV) - 14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
 1. Our desire should be to be found without fault before God - as he searches and tries us.
 - B. **Luke 10:38-42** (NKJV) - 38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
 1. I see this same attitude displayed in **Acts 6:1** ---- fault finding instead of solution finding.
 - C. The problem with fault finding is that it leads to unjust judgments - **Matthew 7:1-5** (NKJV)
 - 1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
 - D. **John 7:21-24** (NKJV) - 21 Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
 1. Notice this shows that we are to judge - but it must be righteous.
 2. Can we say this about our "seeking?"
- V. Positive Seekers - **Those Who are Wisdom and Truth seekers**
- A. **Proverbs 2:4-6** (NKJV) - 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
 - B. **1 Corinthians 1:17-25** (NKJV) - 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message

preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

C. **John 8:31-32** (NKJV) - 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

1. (See through **verse 47**)

2. **Acts 17:11; 2 Thess. 2:10-12**

a. **Acts 17:11** (NKJV) - 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

b. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12** (NKJV) - 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

D. In every aspect of life - TRUTH is important. How much more than the TRUTH that determines one's eternal destiny.

1. We live in a world with so many claiming to have the truth - but by very close observation we can see this can not be - a single truth can't produce so many doctrines and practices.

2. When we are truth and wisdom seekers we will examine the Word of God and learn from Him and Him alone.

a. Men's doctrines and the words of men are not relevant to TRUTH.

VI. **Those who are Peace Seekers**

A. **Matthew 5:9** (NKJV) - 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

B. **Romans 12:17-21** (NKJV) - 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

C. **1 Peter 3:8-12** (NKJV) - Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

D. Are we Peace seekers! With all men in all respects we strive for peace - yet in some cases we understand that some do not desire peace - thus the terms “If it is possible”.

VII. **In Conclusion - are you a Soul Seeker**

A. **Matthew 16:26** (NKJV) - 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

B. **Matthew 18:11-12** (NKJV) - 11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. 12 “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the

¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982

ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?

- C. **Luke 12:20-21** (NKJV) - 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
- D. **James 5:19-20** (NKJV) - 19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
- E. **Luke 12:22-31** - Are we Material or Spiritual
 - 1. What type are You?