



Seeking the Savior

by Max Lucado

Simeon said, “*Can I stay alive until I see him?*” The Magi said, “*Saddle up the camels. We aren’t stopping until we find him.*” The shepherds said, “*Let us go.... Let us see.*” They wanted the Savior. They wanted to see Jesus.

They were earnest in their search. One translation renders Hebrews 11:6: “*God ... rewards those who earnestly seek him*”. Another reads: “*God rewards those who search for him*”. And another: “*God ... rewards those who sincerely look for him*”. I like the King James translation: “*He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*”.

Diligently—what a great word. Be diligent in your search. Be hungry in your quest, relentless in your pilgrimage. Let this book be but one of dozens you read about Jesus and this hour be but one of hundreds in which you seek him. Step away from the puny pursuits of possessions and positions and seek your king.

Don’t be satisfied with angels. Do not be content with stars in the sky. Seek him out as the shepherds did. Long for him as Simeon did. Worship him as the wise men did. Do as John and Andrew did ask for his address. Do as Matthew: invite Jesus into your house. Imitate Zacchaeus. Risk whatever it takes to see Christ.

God rewards those who seek *him*. Not those who seek doctrine or religion or systems or creeds. Many settle for these lesser passions, but the reward goes to those who settle for nothing less than Jesus himself. And what is the reward? What awaits those who seek Jesus? Nothing short of the heart of Jesus. “*And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him*”.

Can you think of a greater gift than to be like Jesus? Christ felt no guilt; God wants to banish yours. Jesus had no bad habits; God wants to remove yours. Jesus had no fear of death; God wants you to be fearless. Jesus had kindness for the diseased and mercy for the rebellious and courage for the challenges. God wants you to have the same.

He loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.

From *Just Like Jesus*

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Responsive Reading: Psalm 138:3-8

- ALL:** On the day I called, you answered me!
You increased my strength of soul!
- 1-6: All the kings of the earth shall praise you
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 7-12: *All shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.*
- 13-18: The LORD regards the lowly.
while he perceives the haughty from far away.
- 19-24: *Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies.*
- 25-31: You stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
- ALL:** **The LORD will fulfill his purpose.
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**

Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

The LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-16

Jesus asked his disciples, they said, “*Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.*” He said to them, “*But who do you say that I am?*” Simon Peter answered, “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*”

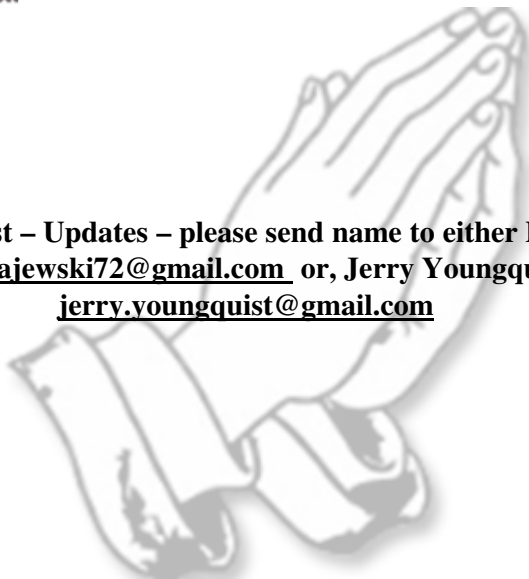
SALEM FAMILY EVENTS

We are gathering again at Salem!
If you cannot join us for our outdoor services, we will still keep the 'virtual service' going on our web-page. Each Sunday's service will be posted by 2:00pm each week. Check it out or share this fact with another. Our site: www.Salemlc-oxford.com.



Confirmation Class/process for adults (confirmed or refresher), will be on Tuesday nights 7-8:30pm
Start date TBD – more info ...see Pastor Rob!

Prayer List – Updates – please send name to either Pr. Rob robkrajewski72@gmail.com or, Jerry Youngquist jerry.youngquist@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



- One of my wife's third graders was wearing a Fitbit watch, which prompted my wife to ask, "Are you tracking your steps?" "No," said the little girl. "I wear this for Mommy so she can show Daddy when he gets home."
- I tried having my mother's phone disconnected, but the customer-service rep told me that since the account was in my dad's name, he'd have to be the one to put in the request. The fact that he'd been dead for 40 years didn't sway her. Then a solution hit me: "If I stop paying the bill, you can turn off the service, right?" "Well, yes," she said reluctantly. "But that would ruin his credit."
- I loved the dress that I bought at a flea market. It fit perfectly, and the skirt was a swirl of intricate pleats. I wore it confidently to an evening party and glowed when a woman exclaimed, "Oh, how stunning!" Yes, I was grinning from ear to ear, until she added cheerfully, "Hang on to it, honey. Pleats will come back someday."
- If it was a blustery day, you could be sure to hear my dad remark, "It was so windy today, I had to wrinkle my forehead and screw my cap on to keep it there!"
- As my sister and I were counting the cows in a pasture, Dad glanced over at the herd and said, "There are 127." "How'd you know?" we asked. He replied, "I counted their legs and divided by four." Decades later, my kids give me the same look I gave my dad every time I pull that same gag.
- WebMD is updating its server because of a virus. Well, they think it was a virus, but it could also be malaria, kidney failure, a heart murmur, gallstones, or possibly appendicitis.
- My dad is so cheap that when he dies, he's going to walk toward the light and turn it off.