

WHERE ARE YOU?

*“But the Lord God called to the man, **where are you?**”*

GENESIS 3:9 (NIV)

God is not asking the question, “Where are you?” for His own good, but for Adam and Eve’s good. He knows exactly where they are, and He knows exactly what they have done. He asks this question because Adam and Eve had gotten lost in their rebellion. God wanted His lost children to ponder what they have just got themselves into.

Maybe Jesus is asking you the same question today?

- *Where do you find yourself at this moment?*
- *Do you feel distant from God?*
- *Have you neglected Him?*
- *Have you fallen into a sin that won’t seem to go away?*

As you ponder the questions, you may find yourself in a similar situation as Adam and Eve. You may have rebelled against God, and have now hidden yourself because you are scared of His reaction. But this is not a proper response for Christians. There is no need to hide from God because He already knew you were going to do whatever you did, and He still chose to love you.

Stop hiding from God, and own up to where you are. When you are honest with where you are, that’s the moment when you will most fully experience and enjoy God’s love for you.

LOST AND FOUND

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost .”

LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

All of us have felt lost at one time or another in our lives. We were lost and had no idea where we were, or where we were going.

Our wandering from God so easily entangles us into trouble. But God came down from heaven to earth to seek us out. On the cross, Jesus was seeking us out. On the cross, Jesus saw you and me as helpless wanderers, and He sought us out, even though we had never sought a relationship with Him.

Is that not good news? That we, as sinners, have wandered from God, yet He came to seek us. If you have a stubborn heart, then you must stop wandering from God and realize how He has sought you.

Today, God is wanting to remind you that if you simply look to Him and grab His hand, He will save you. If you feel lost, know that you can be found. There is a Savior that came to seek you so that you can be saved. Don't fight it, but allow Him to find you, through placing all your faith in Him.

NEVER WORRY

“Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

MATTHEW 6:27 (NIV)

It is not uncommon for someone to worry. Everybody worries. We all worry about different things—everyone does it. Now, I want you to take a moment and think about what you have been worried about the most lately. What was it? Feel free to share, or just think about it.

Whether it had to do with work, school, sin, a relationship, or something else, I can safely assume that whatever you worried about was not fixed by you worrying. This is because worrying is a waste of time. Worrying has never helped anyone. When things don't work out the way we want them to, it's easy to begin worrying.

Whenever you worry, it's a sign that you have stopped believing that God is going to take care of you. If God did not love you, then there would be a good reason for you to worry. But He does love you — just look at the cross. If Jesus was willing to die for you so that you could be saved from hell and go to heaven to have a perfect relationship with Him, then don't you think He would be interested in taking care of you in the midst of all the things you are worried about right now?

Stop wasting time by worrying, and begin to trust the promises of God! You may not know your future, but if you trust God (who holds your future), then you will see all of your worries begin to melt away. The only way you can defeat worry in your life is by trusting that God does care about you and is capable of bringing you through whatever you are going through. Bring to mind whatever worry that has been plaguing you, and give it to God in this moment. Stop wasting your time with worry, and start trusting the God who loves you without measure!

GET STARTED

“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.”

NEHEMIAH 6:15–16

Imagine if the capital city of the United States laid in ruins for over 100 years. How would that feel?

- *Would you feel secure?*
- *Would you feel proud?*
- *Would you feel confident?*

Not even close. You'd feel exactly the opposite. However, if your capital was rebuilt and re-established, everything would change. In Nehemiah 6:15, that's exactly what happened for Israel. But here's what stands out the most...

What was broken for over 100 years was restored in just 52 days. That's 36,500+ days of destruction, embarrassment, and fear turned around and was made whole in 0.001% of that time!

On a grand scale, Nehemiah 6:15 shows us what happens when a leader (Nehemiah) takes action on a God-given vision and God's people (Israelites) join in.

What if we reverse engineer this panoramic view and apply it to our lives, our church, our Life Group?

Has God called you to something that you've been putting off? Or maybe it seems so big that you delay taking action because you don't feel ready yet?

Discuss!

CONTENT

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want .”

PSALM 23:1 (ESV)

It is not often that we hear of someone not wanting anything. We tend to always want the next thing on our list. Whether it is a new relationship, house, car, game, or adventure, we often desire to get the next item on our long list of wants.

But in this verse, David says that he “shall not want,” because the Lord is his “Shepherd.” What amazing contentment David had! This same peaceful contentment is available to you today if you allow God to be your Shepherd.

FIRST LOVE

“This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us .”

1 JOHN 4:10 (NIV)

Christianity is not a story about people who love God. No, it is a story about a God who loves sinful people that wanted nothing to do with Him and reflecting that love to others. It is a story about how God was willing to die for us even though we disobeyed, despised, and disrespected Him.

There is no greater story than this. The Creator of the universe loves you, even if you have never wanted anything to do with Him. God is always passionately pursuing you so that you can have a relationship with Him.

When you really see how much God loves you, you will automatically begin to love Him more. Your life is not a story about how much you have loved God. Your life is the story of how much God loves you. Will you enjoy and focus on that truth today?

SUFFICIENT GRACE

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9a (NIV)

Most people do not enjoy feeling weak, appearing weak, or having any sort of weaknesses. But in this passage, we are told that Jesus’s power is made perfect in our weaknesses.

You were not made to live a self-sufficient life. You were made by God so that you could have a reliant relationship with Him, much like a small child relies on their loving father to take care of them. More than anything else, your weaknesses have the ability to point you toward God and His grace, love, and mercy. Naturally, we want to ignore or deny our weaknesses—whether it is disease, a family disaster, a deep depression, or an everyday temptation. However, you should not be upset about your weaknesses, but instead accept them as God’s gift to you—because they are reminders. They are reminders of just how much you need God and His grace.

Allow your weakness to show you how much you need God, and then run to Him. For when you run to Him, He will always welcome you with open arms full of grace, and His grace for you will be more than enough to strengthen you.

LOVE MERCY

“Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire.”

JUDE 1:22-23a (NIV)

As Christians, we get to live in the enjoyment of receiving God’s mercy. We no longer have to experience the eternal consequences of our sins, because Jesus suffered the consequences of our sins for us.

However, our relationship with God’s mercy should not end there. We should be “merciful to those who doubt.” You live in a world that is filled with people who have serious doubts about Jesus and the Christian faith as a whole. These are not people to be harsh to, and they are certainly not people to ignore. These are the people you should most readily extend mercy to.

How do you extend mercy?

Knowing someone who does not know Christ and withholding the message of Jesus from them is the most unloving thing you could ever do. As a Christian, you are called to snatch people from the fires of hell and show them the same mercy and love that Christ has shown you. Who do you need to share Jesus with? I encourage you to pray for them right now, and make an effort to talk with them soon.

NOT TOO FAR OUT OF REACH

“I was like a beast before you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.”

PSALM 73:22–23 (NIV)

There are times in life when you, too, will be like a beast before God. You will feel disappointed, discouraged, depressed, and maybe even defeated. We’ve all had days like this in our lives. Days maybe when we’ve felt so upset about what was going on in our lives that we started to become upset with God, too.

Maybe you can relate. There will be times when you don’t want to talk to God because you have been terrorized by something or someone in your life. But even in those moments, God is “holding your right hand.” When you hold someone’s hand, it means that you are close to them. You don’t just hold anyone’s hand for a long period of time, because if you held a stranger’s hand, that would be weird. You only hold hands with people who you are close to.

If you are a Christian, this verse shows you that even in the moments when you are questioning God and doubting His existence, He is holding your hand. You may want to pull away from God all together because of the anger that is inside you—but that doesn’t change God’s character. When you are faithless, He remains faithful. The best thing you can do when you are experiencing troubles is hold God’s hand tighter than you have before.

HE HAS A PLAN

“Because that was His plan from before the beginning of time, to show us His grace through Christ Jesus.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:9 (NLT)

Before you were born, God had a plan. His plan was to freely extend grace to you by dying on the cross in your place for your sins. Do you feel discouraged today? Is there anything you regret? Does that one sin you want to stop committing keep coming back to the surface? Do you feel far from God?

Don't worry ... there is good news for you. God knew exactly what you were going to do. He wasn't surprised. Not only does God know about your sins before you commit them, but He has also decided to freely extend you unconditional grace. He knew that you would sin—and He still made you and was willing to die for you so that you could experience His grace!