

The Seeking Shepherd John 18:1-11

Thus far in this chapter, we have looked

- twice at Judas,
- once at Jesus and
- once at his words, “I am he” (v 6) and their effect on his captors.

This evening we begin in verse 7 and will work our way through verse 10.

The effect of Jesus’s words causes the small army who has arrested him to draw back and fall to the ground.

V 7a So, he repeats the question, “*Whom do you seek?*”

V 7b – “*Jesus of Nazareth*”

V8a – “*Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.”*”

First: Let’s say a word about “seeking Jesus.”

Romans 3:10-11 – as it is written: “*None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.*”

Psalm 14:1-3 - *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. ² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*

We talked about this when we discussed Judas. His sorrow and confession were like that of Esau –

Hebrews 12:15-17 - *See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.*

The ‘it’ in this passage is ‘the blessing.’ He was not seeking God. He was contrite over what he had lost.

In the same way, people may seek God for “the blessings” of God, but not God, and God knows the difference.

John 2:24 - *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.*

V 25 - Jesus didn't need anyone to educate Him about human nature, or other people's thoughts. He knew exactly what each person needed to know, and what they needed to hear. This is why verse 24 says He didn't trust all of the people claiming to follow Him in Jerusalem. He knew many of them were just following to see more miracles.

Immediately after saying that Jesus knows all about "*what was in man,*" and what was in man, John 3:1 says that "a man of the Pharisees" came to see Jesus. Part of that conversation will be Jesus proving that Nicodemus isn't as spiritually wise as he thinks he is.

John 6:1-15 – T – See vs 14 – *"...they were about to come and take him by force to make him king..."*

What does all this mean? It means when these men confessed to seeking Jesus, they weren't seeking him savingly.

ILL – Many churches are seeker-sensitive or seeker-driven, meaning they focus on appealing to people.

If you use what appeals to the world to interest people in Christ

- a) You are only feeding into their flesh and moving them farther away from Jesus
- b) You are inviting worldly people into the church
- c) You are setting them up for disappointment (bait and switch)

But, biblically speaking, no human being is seeking God. It is quite the opposite –

Second: Let's See Jesus as the (Only) Successful Seeker

The Bible teaches us that there is only one Seeker, and that is God.

Ezekiel 34:11-12 & 16a - *For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.... I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed...*

How successful a Shepherd is Jesus?

Luke 15:4-6 - *What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost **one** of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'*

8-9 - *Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have **lost not one.**"*

I know you know this, but I love it and want to share it again –

The Father - Ephesians 1:4-5 - *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

The Son - Ephesians 1:7 - *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace*

The Holy Spirit - Ephesians 1:13-14 - *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,^[e] to the praise of his glory.*

We are 'Trinitarianly' saved!

Romans 8:28-30 - *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[h] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

- a) He foreknew us
- b) He predestined us
- c) He called us
- d) He justified us
- e) He glorified us

vs 31-39 - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we*

are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Which brings us back to John 18 -

vs 8-9 - Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.”⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”

Remember, friends, it is not the amount of your faith that saves you but the Object of your faith that saves you...Jesus Christ.

Our faith will waver and there may even become a time when we can't think on Jesus. But, he always thinks on us.

1 John 2:1-2 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Propitiation = appeasement or satisfaction. Jesus is the 'satisfaction' for our sins.

Hebrews 7:23-25 -The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

How much more could you be saved? No more. You are saved to the uttermost.

Why?

Because, v 9 – *“Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”*

CONCLUSION: No one is seeking Jesus for Jesus. Thankfully, Jesus is seeking us!

