

YOU CANNOT HELP BUT FIND HIM

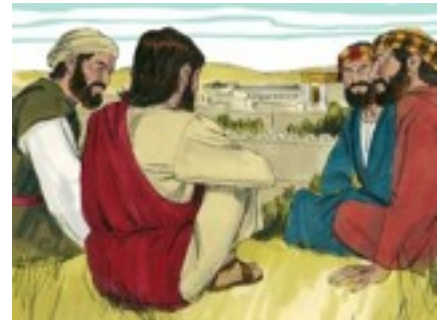
TEXT: John 1:45: Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him: We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth.

Oh, how good and refreshing it is to hear a voice shouting praise and rejoicing from some great triumph. A rejoicing person is good to be around, for they lift our spirits and our hopes high.

Philip has made a greater discovery than the man who struck an oil well. He has found Him Who *created* all the oil wells! His jubilant Voice and radiant face re-echoes what yonder shepherds on Judah's hillsides felt and broadcast everywhere the night of the Savior's birth in Bethlehem. This discovery comes as a revelation to the heart from God alone.

"We have found him!" Philip yells out to Nathanael. But why is there such a strange look of puzzled alarm on the faces of the friends and acquaintances who had known Jesus from childhood? It seems by their looks that they are trying to say: "Why, we never knew He had been lost!"

For the next three years, many people saw Jesus, heard Him preach in their synagogues, and some even ate with Him. Others, moved by envy, tried to catch Him with trick questions, persecute Him, and even drove Him from their cities.



Those who found Him loved Him, while those who saw Him but did not "find" Him stumbled and fell because of their unbelief. This is a fulfillment of the Prophecy recorded in **Isaiah 8:14-15:**

Isaiah 8:14-15:

14 And He shall be for a Sanctuary; but for a Stone of stumbling and for a Rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Then, in **Isaiah 28:16**:

Isaiah 28:16: Therefore thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a Stone, a tried Stone, a precious Corner Stone, a sure Foundation. He that believeth shall not make haste.

The apostle Paul is rightly dividing the Word of Truth, fixing this Prophecy in **Romans 9:31-33**, saying:

Romans 9:31-33:

³¹ But Israel, which followed after the Law of Righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of Righteousness.

³² Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the Law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

Matthew 21:42: Jesus said unto them: Did ye never read in the Scripture: the Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the Head of the corner; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

Matthew 21:44: And whosoever shall fall on this Stone [our Lord Jesus Christ] shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him into powder.

Psalms 118:22: The Stone which the builders refused is become the Head Stone of the corner.

And when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His Parables, they perceived that He spoke of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitude because the people took Him for a Prophet.

These Priests and Pharisees had not made the discovery Philip made, so they resented and even hated Jesus.

Luke 8:11-12:

¹¹ Now the Parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

This same sin of unbelief that is injected into every heart by the devil is causing many of you not to be saved from your sins at this very hour. This same sin of unbelief is also driving many of you who had been saved away from Jesus, so you have lost Him and are seeking to find Him now in vain.

WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.

2 Corinthians 5:7: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.

Habakkuk 2:4: Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his Faith.



Romans 1:17: For therein is the Righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by Faith.

Galatians 3:11: But that no man is justified by the Law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by Faith.

Hebrews 10:38: Now the just shall live by Faith: but if any man draw back, My [Jesus'] soul shall have no pleasure in him.

We are kept by the Power of God through Faith. Because of unbelief, they [Israel] were broken off, and thou standest by Faith.

Romans 11:19-22:

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by Faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if [conditional] thou continue in His Goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Acts 10:34: God is no respecter of persons. [He has no pets]

Hebrews 3:6: But Christ as a Son over His Own House; Whose house are we, if [conditional] we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Philip had the rejoicing kind of faith and hope in Christ, and was a cheerful witness for Jesus, testifying and telling others about Him that they might find Him, too. When this zeal to win souls to Jesus Christ begins to wane, we must face the fact in its true light that we are losing out with Jesus.

When David lost out with his Lord, we hear him weeping and crying for mercy, begging the Lord to blot out his transgressions.

Psalms 51:2-17:

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

When David lost out with his Lord, we hear him weeping and crying for mercy, begging the Lord to blot out his transgressions.

⁸ **Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.**

⁹ **Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.**

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ **Cast me not away from Thy Presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

¹² **Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and up-hold me with Thy free spirit.**

¹³ **Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.**

¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy Righteousness.**

¹⁵ **O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.**

¹⁶ **For Thou desirest not Sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest not in Burnt Offering.**

¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.**



We need the inner cleansing and restoration of fellowship with Jesus; and then our joy will be restored so that we can bring others to Jesus Christ for salvation because we are with Him ourselves. No Christian is a soul winner who has lost Him through the sin of unbelief or by the sins like David committed.

In **Luke 2:41-51**, we read that — unknown to Joseph and Mary — Jesus was not with their caravan when they were returning home after having observed the Feast of Passover in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:41-51:

⁴¹ **Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.**

⁴² **And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the Feast.**

⁴³ **And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the Child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and His mother knew not of it.**

⁴⁴ **But they, supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.**

45 And when they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw Him, they were amazed: and His mother said unto Him, Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing.

49 And He said unto them, How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which He spake unto them.

51 And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart.



It was customary for large caravans to travel together, mainly for protection along the way. Joseph and Mary assumed that Jesus Who was 12 — an age considered to be almost an adult — was with the caravan. However, after a day's journey, they sought Him but could not find Him, so they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him.

This shows us that we can become so busy and occupied in life that we can easily lose sight of Him and not even realize that He is no longer with us.

This shows us that we can become so busy and occupied in life that we can easily lose sight of Him and not even realize that He is no longer with us. They began their search for Him, returned to where they last saw Him, and found Him in the Temple.

We need to keep our eyes focused on Him at all times, and not assume that He is with us wherever we go and in whatever we do. Sin, as well as being pre-occupied with other things — can blind us to the loss of His Presence.

Judges 16:20: And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

When the Word of God is choked, we will become unfruitful. All unfruitful branches are cut off and cast into the fire if they do not repent and turn to God. (See **John 15:2-6**)

John 15:2-6:

² Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the Vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me.

⁵ I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.

⁶ If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Just like Mary and Joseph, when we discover we have lost sight of Him, whether it be from sin or neglect on our part, we need to leave whatever we are doing and diligently seek Him. You will find Him if you come as they did — sorrowing.

Luke 2:48b: . . . behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing.

Hebrews 11:6b: . . . He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

What do I hear? It is a lamentable cry. Sounds like a man's voice. It is. As we come closer to where the sound originates, we see it is a heartbroken, elderly man. The sympathies of many passersby are aroused at the pitiful cries of this man.

Someone asks, "Sir, what is your trouble? Maybe we can help you if you will tell us what is wrong." His cry is recorded in **Job 23:3**:

Job 23:3: Oh that I knew where I might find Him [The Lord God] ! That I might come even to His seat!

A bystander calls out: "Who is this you have lost? A son, your father?" "Oh, no," he cries out. "Then, is it your hunting dog?" By the sound of his painful cries, he has lost something more dear than a million worlds. Strangely enough, he feels that by the use of the word "Him", the others should understand that "He" is his chief concern, the most treasured possession of his life. Trying to be helpful, some heads get together and reason: "It's not a "she" but a "he" this man has lost. So, it can't be his wife or daughter.

Finally, a Christian gets down before the bowed head and tries to get a look at his face. He does, and is astonished to find it is none other than Job, the godly old saint whom

the Lord had so loved, blessed, prospered and bragged on that there was no man like him on earth. This Christian Brother is startled when he finds out. He knew how dear and precious the Lord was to Job. One time he heard Job say, ***“Thou He [The Lord God] slay me, yet I will trust Him”.*** (Job 13:15a)

The Lord revealed to Job’s new burden bearer, whose name was Elihu, that Job’s faith had gone down to a dangerously low ebb.

Job finally confessed that he feared many things, like calamities coming upon him, and everything he feared came on him, as if he had ordered them through the Sears & Roebuck catalog.



Brother Elihu reminded Job of his once victorious life of faith and trust in God, and how the Lord rewarded that faith with many blessings. He tried to build him up again in faith, but poor Job couldn’t be built up again until he did some unloading. Elihu saw how full Job’s heart was with bad feelings toward Bildad, Zophar and Eliphaz. Besides the wicked men and their children who made up vile songs about Job, spit in his face, reviled him, and pushed him around like he was the off-scouring of the earth, Job even built up a resentment toward the Lord for letting all this come upon him. He found fault and complained that he had not been treated right.

Dear ones, there are those of you who have also lost His wonderful Presence from your life. You, too, have an aching heart; deep grief is settled down upon your soul. You have tried to conceal it and have tried to get to the Lord yourself, but somehow you just cannot find Him. You feel empty and forsaken since you have lost Him. Your face looks blank and ever so sad.

Just like Job, swallow your pride. Cry out, not caring who hears you. The Lord will hear your prayer and will bring forgiveness if you come according to His Word.

The Lord appeared to Job and instructed him how to get deliverance and be renewed in his once happy walk with the Lord.

Turn to the Word of God. There is instruction that will lead you back to Him. The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.

Psalms 19:7: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Believe the Word with all your heart, and obey it; it will lead you back to Him. There you will find compassion and pardon:

Isaiah 55:7: Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord; and He will have compassion on him [compassion is not pity, it is the Love of God for each seeking soul] and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Like so many of us, Job had allowed his ongoing physical and emotional pain to come between him and his Lord because he did not understand why The Lord was allowing him to suffer like that. He did not know that the Lord had singled him out and had bragged about him to satan.

Job 1:1: There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed [abstained from] evil.

Job 1:6-8:

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and satan came also among them.

⁷ And the LORD said unto satan, Whence comest thou? Then satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

⁸ And the LORD said unto satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth [abstains from] evil?

Unbeknownst to Job, God was allowing satan to test him because God knew Job would come through this trial victoriously.

Job 1:9-12:

⁹ Then satan answered the LORD, and said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?

¹⁰ Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

¹¹ But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face."

¹² And the LORD said unto satan, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy [satan's]

power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." So satan went forth from the Presence of the LORD.

When God finally speaks to Job out of a whirlwind as recorded in **Job Chapters 38 and 39**, Job humbles himself and repents.

Praise God! Job found Him again. His joy was restored, and his mournful face was lightened. He began to cry out with Philip: ***"I have found Him"***.

Have you found Him, friend?

Isaiah 55:6: Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near.

Jesus is come to seek and to save you from your sins. Don't let satan's appeals to physical pleasure or earthly gain or fame cause you to lose your soul. Or, if you are too proud, self-righteous, or harbor an unforgiving spirit, you will not find Jesus. He alone is the Savior of the World.



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