

I SOUGHT FOR A MAN

EZEKIEL 22

Text: Ezekiel 22:30

(Ezekiel 22:30) "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Introduction:

God searches in salvation and in service.

(Luke 19:10) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

This is the searching in salvation. God draws, seeks and calls through the Spirit, and Scripture.

(2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

If you are here today and are not certain if you would die that you would go to Heaven, let me remind you that the Saviour is searching for you.

Hear the blessed Saviour calling the oppressed
O ye heavy laden come to me and rest
Come no longer tarry I your load will bear
Bring me every burden bring me every care

Stumbling on the mountain dark with sin and shame
Stumbling toward the pit of hell's consuming flame
By the powers of sin deluded and oppressed
Hear the tender shepherd Come to me and rest

Jesus is tenderly calling thee home
Calling today calling today
Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam
Farther and farther away

Jesus is pleading O list to His voice
Hear Him today Hear Him today
They who believe on His name shall rejoice
Quickly arise and away

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me
See on the portals He's waiting and watching
Watching for you and for me

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading
Pleading for you and for me
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies
Mercies for you and for me

Time is now fleeting the moments are passing
Passing from you and from me
Shadows are gathering death beds are coming
Coming for you and for me

Come home Come home Ye who are weary come home
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling O sinner come home
Thank God for the searching and seeking Saviour.

However in our text the searching going on is for
service.

Notice:

1. THE PERIOD (WHEN WAS GOD LOOKING FOR A MAN)

A time of

- A. Sinful Poverty (Ezek. 22:1-12)
- B. Severe Punishment (Ezek. 22:13-22)
 - 1. God's wrath
- C. Spiritual Pollution (Ezek. 22:25-28)

If there was ever a time when God needed a man it was then. (2 Timothy 3) tells us if there was ever a need for a man it's now.

(2 Timothy 3) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. {2} For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; {5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. {6} For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. {8} Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. {9} But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. {10} But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, {11} Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. {12} Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. {13} But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. {14} But continue thou in the

things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; {15} And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. {16} All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: {17} That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2. THE PLEA (EZEK. 22:30)

(Ezekiel 22:30) "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Note what God was saying

A. The Pursuit (I sought)

B. The Place (Among them ... Among God's people)

(Ephesians 2:10) "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

C. The Plan (make up the hedge, stand in the gap)

D. The Purpose (should not destroy it)

E. The Problem (I FOUND NONE)

(Luke 10:2) "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

3. THE PERSON

God is looking for a person with?

A. Conviction

1. Doctrine

(Galatians 1:8) "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

(Titus 2:1) "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"

2. Direction

(2 Corinthians 6:17) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

3. Deeds

(1 Corinthians 10:31) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

B. Compassion

(Jude 1:22) "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"

1. Sick

2. Saints

(1 John 3:17) "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

3. Sinners

(Psalms 126:6) "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

C. Courage

(Psalms 27:14) "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Courage to

1. Fight

(1 Timothy 6:12) "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

2. Follow

a. Lord's example

b. Holy Spirit's leading

c. Words' instruction

3. Finish

(2 Timothy 4:7) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

D. Consecration

(2 Timothy 2:20-22) "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour."

{21} If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. {22} Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

1. Clean voice
2. Clean Vision
3. Clean Vessel

Close:

(Ezekiel 22:30) "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."