

# 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

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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

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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**

- *Day of Idol Worship. (vss 3)*

*(Ezekiel 22:3 KJV) "Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself."*

- *Day of Innocent Blood Being Shed. (vss 4)*

*(Ezekiel 22:4 KJV) "Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy days to draw near, and art come even unto thy years: therefore have I made thee a reproach unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries."*

- *Day of Deceitfulness (vss 7)*

*(Ezekiel 22:7 KJV) "In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow."*

- *Day of Despised Holiness (vss 8)*

*(Ezekiel 22:8 KJV) "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths."*

- *Day of Profaning the Lord's Day. (vss 8)*

*(Ezekiel 22:8 KJV) "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths."*

- *Day of Sexual Perversion (vss 10-11)*

*(Ezekiel 22:10-11 KJV) "In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution. {11} And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter."*

- *Day of Greed (vss 12)*

*(Ezekiel 22:12 KJV) "In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD."*

- *Day of Forgetting the Lord (vss 12)*

*(Ezekiel 22:12 KJV) "In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD."*

- *Day of Uncleanness (vss 24)*

*(Ezekiel 22:24 KJV) "Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation."*

- *Day of Barrenness (vss 24)*

*(Ezekiel 22:24 KJV) "Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation."*

- *Day When the Lines of Distinction Had Been Erased. (vss 26)*

*(Ezekiel 22:26 KJV) "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."*

- *Day When The Preachers Had Confused Holy Things. (vss 26)*

*(Ezekiel 22:26 KJV) "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."*

- *Day of Dishonesty (vss 27)*

*(Ezekiel 22:27 KJV) "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."*

- *Day of False Prophets (vss 28)*

*(Ezekiel 22:28 KJV) "And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken."*

The days that we have looked at are much like things today. Each and every thing that God drew attention to is going on today.

## **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."*

Throughout the Bible God sought for those to stand in the gap:

- When the Midianites oppressed the people God found Gideon.

- When David had sinned and committed murder God found Nathan
- When Pharaoh oppressed the children of Israel God found Moses
- When Goliath stood and defiled the army of Israel God found a shepherd boy named David.

While we're looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

While we're looking for a new recipe; God is looking for quality ingredients.

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."*

God is not only looking for someone with "Convictions" but also:

#### 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."*

God is not only looking for someone with "Convictions and Compassion" but also:

## 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:

- 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."*

- Follow

The Lord's example

The Holy Spirit's leading

The Words' instruction

- Finish

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

God is not only looking for someone with "Convictions, Compassion, Courage" but also:

## 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."*

- Clean voice
- Clean Vision
- 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."*

God is still looking for those that will make up the hedge and stand in the gap.