

# THE HOTSPOT (or “Seek”)

## Church on the Park 5/05/19

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#### **INTRO**

HOT and COLD game

I have hidden treasure somewhere in this place. And it is for ANYONE who finds it. Not just for the kids but for the adults.

Lessons from the game:

Why didn't you look in the cold spots?

#### **God's cold spots:**

- Pride
- Sin
- Laziness (indifference)
- Pretending
- Rebellion (wanting our own way)
- Indifference/apathy

#### **God's hot spots:**

- Humble, broken
- Praise and worship
- Repentance
- With His people
- Hunger
- Sincerity (if not hungry, ask God to stir up spiritual hunger)  
(John 4 God seeks those who worship in Spirit and in truth)
- Prayer

Seek Him where it's hot!

Why didn't we look too hard?

- Embarrassed (worried about what people think)
- Don't really need it
- Don't believe it's there

Notice when I called "hot", seeking intensified.

Gold hunters hunt for gold where they know there is gold to be found.

When you seek God, you receive the treasure (more of Him) and you become a "hot spot" for other seekers.

## **SO MUCH MORE**

This is not it. There is so much more that God has for us. So much more of His Kingdom that we need to experience, so much more of Him to be revealed and so much more freedom.

The only way we will have it is to SEEK GOD.

This word has been stirring in my heart for a while. I know it is a word for our church community.

What are we seeking for? Not just another experience.

"I want my Spirit to permeate my people... to fill every part of their lives."

*And God placed all things under his feet<sup>(BB)</sup> and appointed him to be head<sup>(BC)</sup> over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body,<sup>(BD)</sup> the fullness of him<sup>(BE)</sup> who fills everything in every way.<sup>(</sup>  
Ephesians 1:22-23*

Jer 29:11-14

**DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU.**

## **"SEEK" DEFINED:**

When we are saved, we become members of God's household.

But we don't automatically know or understand all of God's ways or the way of His Kingdom. The good news is you can have as much as you want... you just need to seek Him, to ask Him, to continually sit at His feet and ask Him to teach you.

## ▼ DEFINITION

דרש  drš **to seek with care, care for; to enquire about, investigate; to be intent on; to make supplication**

**HAL** care for; enquire about; investigate; require; search; be intent on

**BDB** resort to, seek

**Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament** TO RUB, TO BEAT, TO TREAD, TO TRAMPLE; to go to a place, to frequent it;; to go to; to seek; to search after; to seek from any one, to inquire

**CHAL** care about; inquire about; worship; examine, inquire; demand; seek

**Lexham Theological Wordbook** to seek.

**DBL Hebrew** seek; be sought after; let search; account for; look for; care for

**NASB Dictionaries**

**TWOT**

**Enhanced Strong's Lexicon**

**Abridged BDB**

**Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary** to care for; to inquire about, investigate; to require; to make supplication

**A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible**

*The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who **understand**, any who **seek** God. (Psalm 14:2)*

UNDERSTANDING and SEEKING GOD go hand in hand.

***Proverbs 8:17, 33-36***

Seek.com is NOT good example of what seek actually means (eg doing something, getting out of your comfort zone, going after something).

Seeking is ACTIVE.

- Matthew 7:6-11 shows us HOW to seek

“Knock and KEEP ON KNOCKING...”

Go after your freedom. Go after God. Go after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Not one bullet in a battle. Keep firing till the battle's won.

If you seek something, **you want it, you value it.**

“where your treasure is, there will be your heart also”

If you want God to fill your heart, He must be your treasure.

Is Jesus your treasure? Do you long for His presence, for His voice?

You seek for something because **you know that it's there to be found.**

**We are seeking someone who is REAL.**

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (that He exists), and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently (earnestly) seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

MSG – “He cares enough to respond”

Can you get by without Him? Sometimes when we lose things, but we think they can be easily replaced by other things, we don't seek so earnestly, diligently.

### **If we don't seek God:**

*For the shepherds have become **dull-hearted**,  
And **have not sought the Lord**;  
Therefore they shall not prosper,  
And all their flocks shall be <sup>(AK)</sup>**scattered**.*  
(Jeremiah 10:21)

In other words, **if you do not seek the Lord, you will become dull-hearted.**

“dull-hearted” – stupid, unreceptive (you can't take anything in, digest the food – therefore stay spiritually immature – see Hebrews 5:11), foolish (opposite to wise)

“sought” – to seek with care, enquire, search

If you DO seek God, you will be able to receive His Word, you will be sensitive to His voice, you will prosper, be in unity (protected from enemy attacks).

The unity comes from seeking God together. Don't have to agree on everything, but this we do agree on – we want more of Jesus!

### **WHAT SEEKING LOOKS LIKE (EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURE)**

Jesus left Heaven, to become a humble man on earth – carrying the Kingdom of God wherever He went.

But it was the people that went after Him that were touched, healed, delivered.

It was the disciples who left everything to follow Him, who learned the ways of the Kingdom and became carriers of the Kingdom, just like Jesus.

**Blind Bartimaeus** (Mark 10:46-52)

These guys knew their need of God. They were desperate and they didn't care what people thought.

**Jacob** (Genesis 32:22-30)

**Peter** (John 21:3-7)

## **CHURCH IS A "HOT SPOT".**

The enemy knows it. He'll do everything he can to keep you away. The Sunday morning battle.

Call on him while he's near

Look in the right place (where does God like to hang out?) with His people.

When God draws near, seek Him.

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

There is something very powerful about seeking God together.

Seeking God as individuals is essential and powerful, but seeking God together is even more powerful.

How we can SEEK GOD when we come together

God's presence is here. But if you want Jesus to touch you, you must be sincerely seeking after Him – to go after Him.

Luke 15 the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son. The extreme lengths God has gone to seek us.

God sought us so that we can seek Him.

***"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on***

*them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*  
*Isaiah 55:6-9 NIV*

When the river is flowing, dive in!

## **SEEK GOD IN PRAYER**

This is continual. Especially powerful when we pray together.

<sup>13</sup> *"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain,<sup>(V)</sup> or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name,<sup>(W)</sup> will humble<sup>(X)</sup> themselves and pray and seek my face<sup>(Y)</sup> and turn<sup>(Z)</sup> from their wicked ways, then I will hear<sup>(AA)</sup> from heaven, and I will forgive<sup>(AB)</sup> their sin and will heal<sup>(AC)</sup> their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.<sup>(AD)</sup> <sup>16</sup> I have chosen<sup>(AE)</sup> and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. (2 Chronicles 7:13-16)*

Keep praying and DON'T GIVE UP.

## **SEEK GOD IN WORSHIP**

Mean the words you sing. Get rid of distractions.

## **SEEK GOD IN THE WORD**

Proverbs 2

Cast down all your own thoughts and opinions

Come hungry. Cultivate a soft heart.

Hear for YOU - not someone else

Preaching of the Word is **one of the ways God takes care of you.**

The preacher - a shepherd after God's heart- has been waiting on God for His Word for the flock. Don't treat it lightly. Treasure God's Word. 1Peter 5:

"Teach them to honour my Word, to receive it humbly"

**Respond to God's Word** – John 5 – Man healed at the pool of Bethesda. The man had the infirmity for nearly 40 years.

Jesus said, "**Do you want to be made well?**"

The man was **waiting for people**, but had no one to help. Some one always got in the pool before him.

All he needed was to **pay attention to, receive and obey the words of Jesus**

"Rise, take up your bed and walk." In other words, you're healed and you're not going back there again.

When God speaks, **purpose to obey** what God says, otherwise all revelation is useless.

## **"WATCH OUT FOR THORNS"**

*Matthew 13:22*

*<sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth<sup>(A)</sup> choke the word, making it unfruitful.*

Seek God **FIRST** and He will take care of you.

*Matthew 6:25-34*

*But **SEEK FIRST** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*(Matthew 6:33)*

## **RESPOND**

Respond to Jesus Word, to Jesus' presence

Get out of your comfort zone. Do something.

Have to overcome fear of man. - wanting God more than people's approval.

Seeking God can look messy and make our flesh uncomfortable.

## **SEEK GOD IN ONE ANOTHER**

We all have a blind spot.

My example: A sister told me, "The Lord said to tell you have bitterness in your heart." Humbling myself and receiving this word kept me from being tormented by the enemy and set me free.

Humility is your protection.

To have a fuller revelation of Jesus, you need to be humble enough to receive from another brother or sister.

Look for treasure, look for Jesus, in one another. You are not complete without your brothers and sisters.

Treasure in vessels of clay. (2 Corinthians 4:7) Do you just see the clay? You'll miss out on the treasure.

People couldn't receive from Jesus because they knew Him in the flesh.

**HONOUR and LOVE** one another.

Battling to overcome sickness, sin or addiction? Get as much prayer as you can. (James 5:14-17)

## WHAT KEEPS US FROM SEEKING?

### OFFENCE

Matthew 15:21 Canaanite woman

Don't let offence keep you from seeking

Brownsville "Lord keep her from being a tool of the devil"

PRIDE (can't see our need of God) Rev 3

LACK of HUNGER

### DON'T GIVE UP

God WILL come through

Don't let desperation turn into despair. Heb 10:35-38, Psalm 27:13,14

Keep your heart hungry.  
Go after your freedom.

*Sow<sup>(AF)</sup> righteousness<sup>(AG)</sup> for yourselves,  
reap the fruit of unfailing love,  
and break up your unplowed ground;<sup>(AH)</sup>  
for it is time to seek<sup>(AI)</sup> the Lord,  
**until he comes**  
and showers his righteousness<sup>(AJ)</sup> on you.  
(Hosea 10:12)*

### SEEK THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Keep you from sin, beginning of wisdom.

The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them. (Psalm 25:14)

### SEEK HIM WHEN YOU FEEL DISTANT FROM GOD OR IN DISTRESS

*But if from there you seek<sup>(BP)</sup> the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart<sup>(BQ)</sup> and with all your soul (inner man in contrast with outward)<sup>30</sup> When you are in distress<sup>(BS)</sup> and all these things have happened to you, then in later days<sup>(BT)</sup> you will return<sup>(BU)</sup> to the Lord your God and obey him. <sup>31</sup> For the Lord your God is a merciful<sup>(BV)</sup> God; he will not abandon<sup>(BW)</sup> or destroy<sup>(BX)</sup> you or forget<sup>(BY)</sup> the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath. (Deut 4:29-31)*

If you feel distant from God because of sin (idolatry – loving/putting other things above God):

Deut 4:29-31 turn to the Lord, seek Him with all your heart, He is merciful.

## **DON'T STOP SEEKING**

Treasure everything God shows you as you seek.

Eg Gold hunters get excited over every piece of gold they find, cause it means there's more.

## **HE IS WORTH IT!**

Do you see Him as precious? As your most valuable possession?

*“Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always”  
1 Chronicles 16:11*

David's example. How He lived His life.  
Joshua