

Thank you for downloading CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the **CQ Rewind FULL EDITION** at no charge, simply sign up at www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



How do You Find Jesus?

<u>Matthew 9:11-12</u>: (NASB) ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when Jesus heard this, he said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick,"

You would think that the formula would be simple - wake up one day and realize that your life needs spiritual guidance, pray a little and then step back and let Jesus come into your life so that all of your issues will now become molehills instead of mountains. Oops! It's not so fast, not so easy, and not so simplistic! Finding Jesus - I mean really finding out who he is - what he is all about and how he can truly take root in your life as a life-giving source - is a process that requires much more thought, testing, faith and prayer. Further, it is never really the same for any two people. Stay with us as we investigate investigating Jesus!

Ouestions for consideration:

- 1. Why would you start looking for Jesus?
- 2. What should you look for as you search for Jesus?
- 3. Where does this search for Jesus bring you?

1. Why would you start looking for Jesus?

This is perhaps the most basic and fundamental question in our discussion today. Why do people look for something different in their lives than they already have? These can provoke us to make a change:

DISCONTENT DISAPPOINTMENT FAILURE TRAGEDY INJUSTICE GREED ANGER REVENGE JEALOSY COMPETITION CURIOSITY SELF-IMPROVEMENT SECURITY WORLD IMPROVEMENT LEGACY BUILDING EXAMPLES TO OUR CHILDREN SALVATION DIRECTION

There are a myriad of places you can look for answers:



(1) Trailer from the DVD, The Secret

You can have, do, or be ANYTHING you want.

We ALL have entertained thoughts of a "better" life: Romans 7:19-20: The Apostle Paul talks about the age-old internal conflict. We all want to be better but keep doing the wrong things.

We all are, to one degree or another, living contradictions: Romans 7:21-24: The desire for perfectionism can be debilitating because of the failure rate! The Apostle Paul "joyfully concurred with the law of God," but realized sin caused him to follow a different law.

So one reason to seek Jesus is to want deliverance from our current state. Psalms 51:5-6

Romans 6:23: We start looking for Jesus because we begin to realize a need - a need for something in our life that is bigger than we are and that is able to help us cope with our flawed and imperfect character. Most of us realize that our lives are not complete - there is a void that can be filled a lot of different ways. Some fill it with lots of "stuff."

How do we solve this need? We start looking for Jesus because the flood of problems and challenges in our life and in our world are too overwhelming for our own strength and our own solutions.

Let's discuss a modern day parable:



))) A Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

A man fell in a hole and he could not get out.

We begin to realize that we are in over our heads and are helpless because we don't have the capability to get out. We will continue this parable throughout the program.

Isaiah 61:1-3: Jesus declared that he was the one that fulfilled this scripture. See Luke 4:18.

The captives and prisoners here are "in the hole" and cannot get out. Jesus is there to comfort all those that mourn. So the answer to the question, "Why would you start looking for Jesus," is that in some respect you are in a hole and can't get out.



2. What should you look for as you search for Jesus?

We should look for perspective - sometimes this perspective requires a paradigm shift!

<u>Mark 12:28-31</u>: If you are searching for Jesus, look for God's goodness first. Love God first and foremost.



Jesus did not invent the "God-first" perspective, but he did perfect it!

If we apply Jesus' principles to our everyday life, that's where we can see him.



God draws us to Jesus.

John 6:44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."

Matthew 16:16,17:
...Thou art the Christ, the
Son of the living God...for
flesh and blood hath not
revealed it unto thee but my
Father which is in heaven.

A Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

First Traveler says: Meditate and purify your soul until you reach Nirvana (Buddhism). (Source: www.about.com) Most schools of Buddhism explain Nirvana as a state of bliss or If peace, and this state may be experienced in life, or it may be entered into at death.

However, the Scriptures do show us that meditation and contentment are important: 1 Timothy 6:6-11: Pursuing "stuff" as a way out of your problems is not the answer. Being content doesn't necessarily mean one is happy, but that one is accepting and can see bigger things. Jesus shows us how to find deep and true contentment in his example.

Jesus did not invent Godly contentment, but he did perfect it!



A Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

• Second Traveler says: It is all an illusion; nothing exists. But the man (who did not exist) was still stuck in the hole (that was not there).

We need to have faith.



A Key Point: Faith according to the Bible is NOT credulity!

Credulity: readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (gullibility)

A biblical definition of faith: Hebrews 11:1:

Faith according to Scripture is based on evidence, history, and sound reasoning, not gullibility.

<u>Colossians 2:6-8</u>: The Apostle is comparing different methods of faith. He warned there are a lot of worthless beliefs out there, but don't get caught up in those. Eternal gratitude comes from contentment - being accepting and able to cope.

<u>2 Peter 2:1-3</u>: The Apostle warns that Christianity itself will fall into difficult times because it is going to be misrepresented.



Jesus did not invent faith, but he did perfect it!

(1))A Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

- Third Traveler says: Do good deeds to improve your karma (Hinduism).
- He would still die in the hole but might be reincarnated as something magnificent.

(Source: www.about.com) Karma: Whatever you do to others will be done to you, in this or any future incarnation of your soul.

Matthew 5:38-45: Jesus raised the standard from "eye for an eye."

So we see that the visiting travelers in the modern-day parable are giving some good advice, but the advice just isn't getting the man out of the hole!



We find Jesus not by looking for him, but by looking and seeing as Jesus does, with compassion.

John 13:33,34: ...ye shall seek me...so now I say to you a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have <u>James 2:14-20</u>: It is your faith that gives you the strength to do the works, and it is your works that verify the pre-eminence of your faith.

Jesus did not invent good works of kindness, but he did perfect them!

(((

A Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

• Fourth Traveler says: Pray five times daily facing east and follow five tenants (Islam).

We can apply prayer and humility and make our existence in the hole more tolerable, or we can look for a way out of the hole. <u>1 Corinthians 1:26-29</u>: God chose these lesser individuals to confound the more wise and noble ones. Anything you have, you received from God.

Humility is certainly a necessity for finding Jesus. Without it we would merely justify our position, even though we would be still in the hole.

<u>Luke 18:10-14</u>: The Pharisee gives a big presentation to God and the tax collector prays in humility. There is a big difference. What do *we* do?

<u>James 5:15-16</u>: That righteousness doesn't come from us, because we are all sinners as we previously discussed. The righteousness we were given was as a result of Christ. Prayer is a necessity for finding Jesus, because it reminds us that we are in the hole and we need to get out! We can make the hole more comfortable, but we are still in a hole. Sometimes we become preoccupied with making our hole look better than our neighbors, but none of this matters.

<u>Mark 4:13-20</u>: "Finding Jesus" also requires cultivating what you have found. Inevitably there will be other things in our life that will get in the way. We need to make sure they don't choke out our path.

Jesus reminds us that everyone is not in a position to find him, and there are those that do not want to find him. But for those of us who are looking for a way out of the hole, this is important.

Note the next text that takes place the day after Jesus fed 5,000. He knew that a lot of people followed him just for the free food! It wasn't taking root for those people. John 6:26:



Jesus did not invent humility and prayer, but he did perfect them!

3. Where does this search for Jesus bring you?



(1)) Man Fell in a Hole, BluefishTV.com

• The Fifth Traveler lowered himself into the hole to save the man. This traveler is Jesus.

Romans 6:23: All of the advice that was given by the previous four travelers just made life in the hole more tolerable. Jesus asked the question no one else asked, "Do you want to get out?" And he lowered himself into the pit and pulled the man out.

Remember the Apostle Paul's lament, "O wretched man that I am!"? Here is what comes next: Romans 8:1-8: This shows the contradiction of the earthly mind versus the spiritual mind, and how important it is to focus on the spiritual mind.

Here is the one element of Jesus that is entirely different from all other good works - it is salvation. It is the act of being freed from the bondage of sin and death (the hole) and being brought into the light!

<u>Romans 5:15-19</u>: The men that were in condemnation will have justification. All of those "in the hole" will be rescued out of the hole.

(1)) Give Your Life Away, BluefishTV.com

• Inhale and exhale, Edwin McManus

You've received all of this goodness (inhaling), but now you have to exhale - give away what you've been given.

Romans 8:35-39: Don't let go of what got you out of that hole. It is not your own mind, philosophy, strength; it is the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus. Once you find him, don't let go!

"I looked for him superficially in my abundance, but really found him when I lacked."

So how do you find Jesus?

For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,

Think about it...!