



## How do You Find Jesus?

**Matthew 9:11-12: (NASB)** <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But 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!

### Questions 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:



Here are some positive reasons, as well!



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

))) **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: (NASB) <sup>19</sup>For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. <sup>20</sup>But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

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: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. <sup>22</sup>For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, <sup>23</sup>but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

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: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

Romans 6:23: (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.*

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.

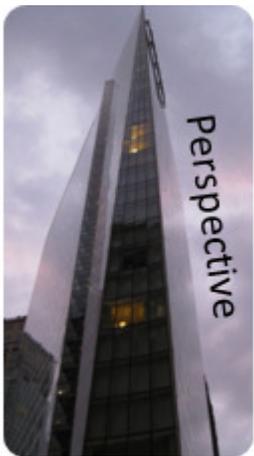
So the answer to the question, "Why would you start looking for Jesus," is that in some respect you are in a hole and can't get out.

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

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

**Mark 12:28-31:** (NASB) *<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that he had answered them well, asked him, What commandment is the foremost of all? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; <sup>3</sup>and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.*

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 peace, and this state may be experienced in life, or it may be entered into at death.



If we are discontented, contentment is a great thing to seek, but you're still "in the hole!"

However, the Scriptures *do* show us that meditation and contentment are important:

1 Timothy 6:6-11: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup>For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. <sup>11</sup>But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

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!

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- 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: (NIV) *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

(Source: Bible Commentary, C. Russell) Faith is the reasonable and accepted conclusion of a logical argument based upon a reasonable premise or foundation.

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

Colossians 2:6-8: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

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.



**2 Peter 2:1-3:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; <sup>3</sup>and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*

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!

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- 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](http://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:** (NASB) *<sup>38</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup>If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. <sup>41</sup>Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup>Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup>You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

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 loved you, that ye also love one another.*

**James 2:14-20:** (NASB) *<sup>14</sup>What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? <sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. <sup>18</sup>But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my*



works." <sup>19</sup>You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. <sup>20</sup>But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

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!

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- 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.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29: (NASB) <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup>but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup>and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no man may boast before God.

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.

Luke 18:10-14: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.

The Pharisee gives a big presentation to God and the tax collector prays in humility. There is a big difference. What do we do?

James 5:15-16: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

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.



**Mark 4:13-20:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup>"The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup>These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. <sup>16</sup>In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; <sup>17</sup>and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup>And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, <sup>19</sup>but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>20</sup>And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

"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:** (NASB) *Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*

### 3. Where does this search for Jesus bring you?

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



 **Man Fell in a Hole, [BluefishTV.com](http://BluefishTV.com)**

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

**Romans 6:23:** (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did:



sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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!

**Romans 5:15-19:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. <sup>16</sup>The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. <sup>17</sup>For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup>For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

The men that were in condemnation will have justification. All of those "in the hole" will be rescued out of the hole.



**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.

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

**Romans 8:35-39:** (NASB) <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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!

**So how do you find Jesus?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,  
Think about it...!**