

# What Are You Looking For?

Luke 7:24-35

**Introduction:** In Matthew 9:36, we read that, “when He (Jesus) saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” How often do we find ourselves like that? In Luke 7, Jesus poses the question, “what are you looking for?” to those looking for John. Jesus points out many bad attitudes to have in our search for God and we will examine those more closely this evening.

- I. Are you looking for a reed? rich? prophet?
  - A. Those looking for the prophet were saved
  - B. The pharisees didn't look for a prophet
    1. They weren't saved
    2. They wanted it their way not God's way
  - C. They had to first examine what they were looking for!
    1. This impacts everything you get out of a message
    2. This is the principle that we will examine today
    3. If you have not come to hear the Word of God, your not going to find it
- II. What are you looking for in marriage?
  - A. If you look in the wrong places, you'll find the wrong things (bars, etc.)
  - B. Pitfalls in dating
    1. Men typically look at beauty
      - a) Proverbs 31:10-31 describes real beauty!
      - b) There is nothing wrong with a woman having physical beauty, but that can't be the most important thing
      - c) You can not look at apparel; look at will she help you get to heaven (*1 Peter 3:1-4*)
    2. Women overlook flaws, because they can “train” them
      - a) Ephesians 5:25f
        - (1) Look for a man that is trying to follow Christ's example
        - (2) That follows the pattern of a husband in scripture
      - b) Husbands will stand before God and answer how he treated you (*1 Peter 3:7*)
  - C. You must look at what is
    1. Don't follow your carnal side of you
    2. Make the decision based on spiritual reasons
- III. What are you looking for in a church?
  - A. “I want a church that has lots of young people, nice building, people my age, etc.”
  - B. Revelation 2-3
    1. In these seven churches, what man may see as favorable attributes is not what God may see as good
      - a) Laodicia was rich physically, but spiritually poor
      - b) In Tyratira, Jezebel was a social person!
      - c) Ephesus did a lot of good things but had lost their love!

- 2. Philadelphia and Smyrna were the only good congregations
- C. You should look for a “pillar and ground of the truth!” I Tim 3:15
  - 1. A church that is doing the right things (i. e. standing for the truth)
  - 2. Has the proper attitude behind everything they do
  - 3. Not selfish reasons, go to the place where you can do the most for God
- D. Look at the church in Antioch!
  - 1. Acts 11:19-26
    - a) They were first called Christians!
    - b) they were converted and converted others
    - c) they fulfilled God’s eternal purpose
  - 2. In Acts 5, the church was going through some problems
    - a) Ananias and Saphira lied and died
    - b) Did the church get cowardly and fade away? NO!
- E. How many social events did Jesus use to convert people?
  - 1. Games and Social event existed then as much as they do now
  - 2. Everything Christ did was spiritual in focus
  - 3. We must put our focus on the truth and not jokes and stories
    - a) “well that church isn’t doing anything”
      - (1) are they teaching the truth?
      - (2) are they offering to study with people?
      - (3) how are you helping?
      - (4) easily translated as “I’m not doing anything”
- IV. What are you looking for in doctrine?
  - A. “I like that, but I don’t like that”
    - 1. Its not a buffet!
    - 2. You can’t pick and choose things to follow I Timothy 6:3-5
  - B. “I want to go where they don’t hurt people’s feelings”
    - 1. The truth hurts when your wrong, it doesn’t matter how you put it
    - 2. If people aren’t being “pricked in their hearts” they aren’t studying God’s Word
    - 3. II Timothy 4:1-8
      - a) People want smooth things “don’t rock the boat!”
      - b) If you want the truth, it may hurt, but its worth it!
    - 4. II Timothy 3:16-17
      - a) EVERY scripture is inspired... furnish us COMPLETELY unto EVERY good work!
  - C. II John 9
    - 1. If you aren’t teaching the truth, your not saved
    - 2. If you are with them, you will share their fate

**Conclusion:** If you are looking for the social, entertainment, short and sweet sermons, then you will find a place that will suit you. It will be something man made, but you’ll find your physical fix. If your looking for the truth you we look with a spiritual mindset! If we aren’t teaching the truth tell us and we will fix it, all we want is to get to heaven, won’t you join us?