

Weaving the Word

The Father's Form

March 10, 2019

Welcome to where we're learning how to play hide-and-peek with an invisible Dad!

Why do you read the Bible?



Comfort, power, identification, knowledge, salvation, approval, praise, blessing, eternal life? The *best answer* is that **God is hiding, and we're supposed to come find Him.**

You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity ... – Jeremiah 29:13-14a NKJ



Ever feel confused by how confusing the Bible is?

Rest assured it's *not* you; it's *the point*.



It was designed to require your whole heart.

If we fail to see the game our Dad designed to challenge His children, we'll wrongly chalk it up to us being dumb, or it being irrelevant, or intended for others, or for the past, or the future, or *just-don't-make-me-read-it!*



But, when our first and foremost goal is to *know Him* ever deeper (like children desiring to know more about their dad as they mature), all those other things are added in as well.

In the end, the only thing that means anything is to **seek Him, find Him, and share what you find out about Him with others.**

He's left us a trail of breadcrumbs in the NT leading into the OT, but **we just sit and eat 'em** and expect to somehow find Him. **The New Testament isn't the meal; it's the trail into the Old.**

Are you trying to thrive on the crumbs that fall from the table?

Now, the Father sent His Son into this world. *Why? Jesus said ...*

He has sent Me to **heal** the brokenhearted, to **proclaim** liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to **set at liberty** those who are oppressed – Luke 4:18b NKJ

Why?

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **that the world through Him might be saved.** – John 3:17 NKJ



Thing is, whenever we read that Jesus was *sent by God*, we tend to see it as reinforcing His *authority* rather than His *mission*. But **it's not an authority statement; it's His mission statement.** Watch what happens if we add the mission into the statement. It's one year before the cross. Jesus is in Jerusalem. And when we left off, Jesus was under attack by the religious rulers.

We'll read what we've read, but with the mission statement added.

He who does not honor the **Son** does not honor **the Father, who sent him** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Him]. I tell you the truth, whoever **hears** my **word** and believes **him who sent me** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Me] has eternal life ... a time is coming and has now come when the [spiritually] dead will **hear** the **voice** of the **Son of God** and those who **hear** will live. ... for I seek not to please myself but **him who sent me** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Me]. ... **For the very work that the Father has given me to finish** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Me], and which I am **doing, testifies** that **the Father has sent me** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Me]. And **the Father who sent me** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Me] **has himself testified** [to Moses] **concerning me** [regarding the time that would come, which now has, when: "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth" (Deut 18:18)]. **You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,** – John 5:23b-37 NIV



How do you play hide-and-seek with an invisible Dad?

Spray paint! If you haven't found Him, it doesn't mean He isn't there. It means we must look for Him as He is, not as we demand He be. Do that and you're bound to discover Him in the midst of your pain and sorrow and grief and addiction and failures and shame.

Because, though He patiently waits, He really wants to be found!

... **nor does his word dwell in you,** – John 5:38a NIV

If His Word dwelt in them, they would believe that they've never seen God's form or heard his voice; because, Jesus is trying to remind them that Scripture says it was *their* idea and desire.

When I read the Scripture last Sunday, I left out a little something-something.

This is what comes immediately before.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst ... **Him** you shall **hear, according to all you desired** of the Lord your God **in Horeb [Mt Sinai]** ... saying, **“Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, [“God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice ... [Moses] You go near and hear ... and tell us” (Deut 5:24-27)] lest I die.”** And the Lord said to me: **“What they have spoken is good.” [Challenge accepted! Game on!]** – Deuteronomy 18:15-17 NKJ

Get out the spray paint! Or the highlighters. We need to seek and find His form in all its fullness.

[Jesus] being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God ... – Philippians 2:6-7 NKJ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ... For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell ... – Colossians 1:15, 19 NKJ

[Moses] refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ... He regarded disgrace **for the sake of Christ** as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt [Wait a tick. **Moses lived 1,440+ years before Jesus was born in that barn; but**] ... he [Moses] persevered because **he saw him who is invisible.** – Hebrews 11:24-27 NIV

Oh! The plot thickens. Jesus went on to rebuke them, saying:

... for you do not believe the one he sent [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world might be saved through Him]. – John 5:38b NIV

Turns out, “Sent” is One of Jesus’ most significant *titles*.

Consider the **Apostle [lit. the “Sent”]** and High Priest of our confession, **Christ Jesus** ... – Hebrews 3:1 NKJ

It’s also the literal title of Him who is invisible yet seen by Moses: the **Mal’ak Yēhovah** (Sent of Jehovah/YHWH); usually translated as “messenger” for men, and “angel” for God’s form.

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These** are the **Scriptures** that **testify** about **me**, yet **you refuse to come to me to have life.** [Many diligently study, others diligently avoid, but almost nobody **“Searches for Me with all their heart”**] ... I have come **in my Father’s name**, and you do not accept me; ... If you believed **Moses**, you would believe me, for **he wrote** about **me.** – John 5:39-46 NIV

The **Angel of the LORD** appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. ... And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to **look upon God.** ... Moreover **God** said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The **LORD [Jehovah]** ... has **sent me** to you. This is **My name forever ... I am the LORD [Jehovah].** – Exodus 3:2-6, 13-15, 6:2 NKJ

Any questions? I sure hope so. You see ... **We receive truth to the degree it answers a question we have. We retain truth to the degree of effort we put into finding it. We realize truth to the degree that we share it with others.** That’s just how that *works*. So ...

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks [for understanding] receives; [because] he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. – Matthew 7:7-8 NIV

Because, **we got'a grapple if we're gonna grow.** And, **our sharin' is our share in His Kingdom.**



It wouldn't be much of a challenge if it was just "*stand and find*," "Don't worry, He'll answer," and, "Hey, it's open."

It's all part of fulfilling our uniquely created purpose. **To ask what *you* are uniquely designed to receive. To seek what *you* are uniquely equipped to find. To knock on the door *you* are uniquely able to enter.**

... that God may open a door for our message ... [as Paul says] – Colossians 4:3a NIV

If you have no questions, expect no satisfaction.

If you seek no treasure, expect no eureka!

If you knock on no doors, expect no eternal gratitude.

That's just how *that* works.

Whatever trial, hurdle, test, or disaster you're facing; **the truest, deepest, answer lies in knowing God's Word for yourself.** Because, **the form and voice of our God is hiding in your pain.**

And the Scriptures equip us to follow His trail in our trial.

Sometimes the Lord's love feels like the opposite of love, but that's only because we can't see everything he sees. So, get the spray paint and follow the trail!

We're not here to avoid pain; but, to conquer it and thrive.

***In me* you *may* have *peace*. *In* this *world* you *will* have *trouble*.** But take heart! I have overcome the world." – John 16:33b NIV

Peace to you! As the Father has ***sent Me*** [to heal, proclaim, and set free, so the world may be saved through Me], I also ***send you***. – John 20:21b NKJ

To heal.

Proclaim.

And, set free.

So the world may come to the One sent to save!