

## Found by Him: The Unseen Seekers of Christ

*Isaiah 65:1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.*

*Romans 10:20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.*

Notice carefully what Isaiah declares, God is sought of them that asked not for him. I am one of those people who sought God, but not the God of the Bible, and I found him. And, even more surprisingly, there are people who did not seek God but found him. There is no greater or more blessed “coincidence” or “accident” than finding the God of the Bible, whose name is Jesus. Beloved in Christ, today we embark on a theological exploration, delving deep into the scriptures to examine how Jesus Christ, our Lord, in His infinite grace, often finds those who do not seek Him. This theme encapsulates the divine mystery and intervention of Christ’s love and grace. We will study four profound biblical narratives: the story of Saul, son of Kish, the raising of the widow’s son at Nain, the encounter with Zacchaeus, and the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. These stories remind us that God’s purposes are fulfilled beyond our understanding and emphasize the rich blessings on those who actively seek Him.

1. ***The Story of Saul, Son of Kish:*** Let us commence with the tale of Saul from 1 Samuel 9. Saul’s story is emblematic of unintended encounters with divine destiny. Here is a man, described as handsome and tall, who embarks on a journey not for spiritual enlightenment but to recover his father’s lost donkeys. In this seemingly mundane quest, Saul is unaware of God’s overarching plan to establish him as Israel’s first king. The pivotal moment unfolds in “And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people” (1 Samuel 9:17).

This narrative offers a profound insight into God’s providence. Saul’s search for donkeys becomes a divinely orchestrated detour leading to his anointing as king. Here, we see a reflection of God’s sovereignty—His ability to utilize ordinary circumstances and redirect them toward His extraordinary purposes. Saul’s story is a testament to how, even without seeking, God can reach into the lives of individuals, aligning them with His divine plans.

**2. *The Dead Man on the Bier:*** Our next tale is steeped in compassion and miraculous intervention; found in Luke 7:11-15. Jesus encounters a funeral procession, a scene marked by mourning and despair. The widow, having lost her only son, embodies the depth of human sorrow. In this moment, neither the widow nor the mourners are seeking Jesus. Their hearts are heavy with grief, consumed by the finality of death.

***Luke 7:11** And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.*

***Luke 7:12** Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.*

***Luke 7:13** And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.*

***Luke 7:14** And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.*

***Luke 7:15** And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.*

How blessed was the dead man that the path to the graveyard happened to coincide with Jesus's journey at the right moment! Jesus, moved by compassion, bridges the gap between divine power and human suffering. "Weep not" He tells the widow, and then performs an act that defies human understanding—He raises the young man from the dead. This interaction highlights several theological insights: the boundless compassion of Christ and His authority over life and death. More subtly, it illuminates the principle of prevenient grace—the grace that precedes human action and understanding. It teaches us that God's love often intervenes without our seeking, moving in realms beyond our articulation of need.

**3. *Zacchaeus the Tax Collector:*** The narrative of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10 brings us to Jericho, where a man, wealthy and notorious as a tax collector, seeks to see Jesus. Zacchaeus's curiosity leads him to climb a sycamore tree, not out of humility or faith, but perhaps a mix of intrigue and anonymity. Christ, however, sees beyond the branches—

***Luke 19:3** And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.*

***Luke 19:4** And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.*

***Luke 19:5** And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.*

The significance of this event lies in its revelation of Christ's intentional pursuit. In an act of divine hospitality, Jesus chooses to enter Zacchaeus's home, an act signifying acceptance and the offer of salvation. Zacchaeus's story exemplifies that, in seeking out of curiosity, one can encounter transformative redemption. Jesus meets us in places where we hide, where our curiosity leads us, pointing to the truth of Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." It's an illustrative reminder of God's initiative in reaching humankind.

4. ***Saul of Tarsus:*** Lastly, we turn to Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9—perhaps one of the most dramatic stories of transformation in the New Testament. Saul is not only unconcerned with seeking Jesus; he is actively persecuting His followers. With letters of authority in hand, Saul travels to Damascus, intent on rooting out the burgeoning Christian faith. Yet, in an unexpected confrontation on the road, Saul is enveloped by a heavenly light. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" asks the voice of Jesus. What follows is not merely a conversion but an overhaul of identity and purpose—transforming Saul into Paul, a fervent apostle of Christ. This account is rich with complex theological implications. It suggests that God's grace is irresistible and transformative, capable of redirecting even the most resistant hearts. Saul's conversion underscores the depth of divine mercy and the boundless scope of God's mission. It is a reminder that God's plans accommodate dramatic reversals, turning even adversaries into apostles.

Throughout these narratives, we observe a unifying theme: God's initiative in the lives of unexpected individuals. It reminds us that God's ways are inscrutable and His grace unmerited. Our final encouragement is found in Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This verse assures us that while God often finds those who do not seek Him, those who deliberately pursue Him will assuredly encounter His profound rewards. May this exploration encourage you to seek the Lord wholeheartedly, knowing His promises are sure and His presence unfailing. As we pursue Him, may we be comforted by the truth that He is ever near to those who call upon His name. Amen.

***Ezra 7:10*** *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*