

Looking in the Right Place

Mark 1:29-39

Introduction

One night I saw a man crawling around on his hands and knees under a streetlight. Wanting to be a Good Samaritan, I approached him and asked if I could help. In a slurred voice, he said, "I'm looking for my house keys." So, I got down and began to help in the search. After several minutes, I asked if he was sure he lost his keys here. He replied, "I lost 'em over there, but the light's better here." It doesn't matter how good the light is where you're looking for something. Unless you're looking in the right place, you'll never find it. Many people today are looking for Jesus. But, if they're not looking in the right place, they won't find Him. In today's Gospel reading, people are looking for Jesus, also.

Not the First time

This isn't the first time in His life when people who knew Jesus were looking for Him. In **Luke 2:41-52**, we read the story of the 12-year-old Jesus at the temple. He had been to the Passover celebration in Jerusalem with His parents. Thinking He was with family or friends, Mary and Joseph started for home. When they realized He wasn't in the caravan, they looked for Him for three days before finding Him. When they found Him in the temple and expressed their anxiety, He simply replied, "*Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know I must be in My Father's house?*" (**Luke 2:49**).

He Must be There

We don't know where His disciples were looking for Him but when they finally found Him, He was in prayer. He had spent the day and a good part of the evening healing people and casting out demons. He had slept to re-energize His body. Now, He was communing with His Father to re-energize His spirit. As we witness this great exhibition of His divine power, it is good for us to see that He is human. Because He's in a physical body, it's now more important than ever to spend time in prayer. If it was so important for Jesus, just think how important it is for us. The point is, we will find Jesus when we look where He must be. We find Him in God's house; we find Him in prayer.

The Disciples' Confusion

This also shows us some of the confusion the disciples were experiencing over the ministry of Jesus. They didn't know why He was here. They were just following along. Jesus was in charge; He was leading the way. Yes, the ministry was going well in Capernaum. But Jesus hadn't come for just Capernaum. When Jesus says, "*for that is the reason I came out*" (**v. 38**), He's not saying that is why He came out of Capernaum, to pray. That's why He came from the Father. He's talking about His mission on earth. He must leave Capernaum, where things are going well to accomplish His mission (Read **Luke 10:32-34**).

Finding Jesus on the Cross?

From the very beginning, Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. In **Luke 9:51**, we read that He *set His face to go to Jerusalem*. There was no stopping Him; He must go to Jerusalem. It was there He would accomplish His mission by dying on the cross for the sins of the world. So, if we want to find Jesus, we

look for Him on the cross, right? However, He's not on the cross. We know that He went to the cross. But he was only there for six hours. His mission on the cross was accomplished, so we don't find Him there.

The Empty Tomb?

Another time people were looking for Jesus was the Sunday after He was crucified. Matthew tells us that on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. They were looking for Jesus, but all they found was an empty tomb and an angel who said, *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen"* (**Matthew 28:5-6**). Jesus wasn't in the tomb, because he must be raised from the dead for the victory to be made complete. Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died to take away the sins of the world, is the living Lord, not bound by a tomb. So, we won't find Him in the tomb.

Finding Jesus in the Means of Grace

Where do we find Jesus today? Simply put, in the means of grace. We may find glimpses of Him in other Christians. We may meet Him in Church. But we see Him crystal clear in Word and Sacrament. Hear the Word and find Jesus. Receive His body and blood and find Jesus. If we **LOOK IN THE RIGHT PLACE**, we will find Jesus.

*And the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
