

Week Two of Advent 2019

## SEEK & FIND

**Luke 18:35 - 19:10**



The joy of Hide and Seek is anticipation and finding  
Jesus wants both to be found but He also wants to be sought  
Ever wonder why Jesus remains invisible today? **John 21:29**

The reason that Jesus taught in parables **Matthew 13:10:17**

Seeking intensifies focus/desire and finding maximizes joy. **Matthew 13:44**

Crowds either carry us along and away, or turn us into focused seekers

Two examples of people who resisted the crowds and sought and joyfully found Jesus

Blind Bartimaeus: **Luke 18:35-43** and Scandalous Zacchaeus: **Luke 19:1-10**

Ask, it will be given; seek, you will find; knock, the door will be opened: **Matt 7:7**

Bartimaeus offers an example of seeking as persistence

The parable of the wicked judge in **Luke 18:1-8**

If even a wicked judge will respond to persistence, how much more will a good God.

The comparison is not that both the judge and God are bothered by the persistence

The comparison is the we should persist like the widow: but why is persistence a good thing?

Persistence reveals to us and to God our true priorities, whether good or bad.

When persistence is insistence that God is the answer and is resistance to counterfeit solutions

Bartimaeus is clear that Jesus is the Messiah, and as such, a deliverer: **Luke 18:38**

Jesus rewards his persistence both with healing, and more importantly, relationship: **Luke 18:43**

Zacchaeus offers an example of seeking as fighting for a place where you get a signal

Assessing his situation, he does the one thing that gives him a sightline

No matter what people think, no matter that it left him trapped and exposed

Sightlines are two-way streets (if you can see the camera, the camera can see you)

Jesus sees Zacchaeus and initiates relationship

God wants us to fight for a sightline so we can see Him already looking at us! **Psalms 139:1-18**

While we often start out seeking some thing from Jesus (that the crowd can't give us after all)

The closer we get, we find we don't want a thing from Him, but we simply want Him

Instead of settling for a piece of peace, we receive the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**)

Proximity to Jesus is the place of transformation!

In both stories, relationship with Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is the ultimate gift given

And for us as well: the one promise that always applies: **Matthew 28:20**

Practice of Persistent Prayer: notice what is persisting and use Bartimaeus' prayer

Practice of the Sycamore Tree: where, when, how can you get the clearest sightline on Jesus?

*The Healing of the Blind Man of Jericho, Nicholas Poussin, 1650, oil on canvas, Musée du Louvre, Paris.*