

LOST

JESUS CAME TO FIND US
NOT JUST TO FIX US

SUNDAY 4TH JULY - 10AM

“YOUR DIVINE
DESIGN”



As we read through the New Testament, we discover the amazing lengths Jesus will go to in order to bring life to spiritually lost people. There is the boat trip where He endangered His friends lives to reach one man who was alone, afraid, and far from God (Mark 4v35-41; Mark 5). Remember the diversion through Samaria for the sake of one spiritually confused woman? (John 4v4-26.) These stories remind us that when we pursue God's plan for our lives He disrupts our comfort, the normal patterns of life, usual relationships and leads us into the adventure of laying down our lives to bring others into Life.

When we look closer at the Salvation story, we begin to understand that leading others to life, as Jesus modelled for us, does not start with an in-your-face approach but an in-your-shoes approach. The Word became flesh and dwelt with us. The supreme perfect Son of God came to be a man and live as men do because God is the searcher. He relentlessly pursues us and in seeking us He uncovers our truest self. Nothing is hidden, nowhere unreachable, and everything He seeks He restores.

Luke 19 v10 *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* To seek with the goal of finding and to save meaning restoration and renewal of our original God given design.

I have heard many times people declaring to those outside of relationship with God that they have a God shaped hole, a place in their soul that only God can truly fit. While this sounds plausible it undermines the very truth it presents. We don't just have a part of us that is missing as a result of separation from God. Every part of us is created by Him and comes from Him and for Him. Our whole Divine design only makes sense when He is in all ways our Saviour. Gen 1v27 declares that we were created in the image of God - we reflect God's Intelligent design. This design is that God created us with longings to experience His pleasure and joy. God created the human spirit with seven longings that draw us to Him and reflect His glory in us. They are the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God; the longing to be fascinated; the longing to be beautiful; the longing to be great; the longing for intimacy without shame; the longing to be wholehearted (passionate); and the longing for significance with lasting impact. Every one of these insatiable longings are given to us to bring us into a full and flourishing relationship with God, satisfaction guaranteed. This is what Jesus is referring to when He said he came to give us life in abundance. What He is saying is that every longing every human heart has which they have sought to satisfy in counterfeit ways is really not sin but the Divine design of our Master Maker. We have spent so much time looking for the right thing in all the wrong places.

Each longing is a reflection of God's personality. We are made in His image; thus we have these longings that enable us to walk with Jesus as His eternal companion. These longings will be in us forever and give insight into how He created us.

We cannot remove them by repenting of them. Rather, we repent of seeking to fulfil them outside of our relationship with Jesus. Each of these longings has a counterfeit. The enemy tempts us to satisfy these longings outside of God's will.

The Spirit answers these basic longings in us in part in this age and in fullness in the age to come. As we seek to answer these longings in our relationship with Jesus, we will experience the "superior pleasures" of the gospel. In this way, we can walk free from the dominion of the "inferior pleasures" of sin. The result is that we are empowered to love Jesus more. Jesus came to seek us and bring us into the fullness of the Father's affection where every longing is fulfilled by the very one who designed and placed them in our lives.

Monday: Take some time today to reflect on the truth that Jesus came not in-your-face but in-your-shoes to seek and to find you. Thank Him for searching for you and for saving (restoring) your truest identity before sin distorted it.

Tuesday: Thank the Lord for your Divine design. You were made from Him and for Him, you could never be an accident and it is impossible to be a mistake because the greatest Intelligence in the universe has created you in His image. Take some time to pray that over your own life and the life of anyone who lives outside of the love of the Father.

Wednesday: Your Divine Design is that God created all humanity with longings to experience His pleasure and joy. God created the human spirit with seven longings that draw us to Him and reflect His glory in us. Thank Him for each longing and ask Him to bring satisfaction in every way to every one of them.

Thursday: Each longing provides an opportunity for God to connect people to Himself and as we understand their significance we begin to see how we can begin to lead others into life. For example, the longing to be loved is common to every human heart. Love sought you, love found you, love transforms you and love satisfies you. Ask the Lord to bring clarity to the longing that is prominent in your friends. Is it love, fascination etc and begin to pray that He will bring revelation to their heart.

Friday: We so often try to stop these longings, but you cannot repent of them when they have been given to you by God. Rather, we repent of seeking to fulfil them outside of our relationship with Jesus. Each of these longings has a counterfeit. The enemy tempts us to satisfy these longings outside of God's will. Take authority over the enemy and his attempts to distort God's Divine Design in those you believe He is seeking to reach. Pray for the counterfeit to become exposed and the genuine to bring satisfaction.