



Thoughts on the Journey...

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What are you looking for?

There are many times in the course of my life I have been asked that very question under various circumstances. Certainly by my mother when I've pilfered through her purse looking for some loose change; by a retail clerk as I'm looking for the perfect gift for someone; a concierge when I enter a hotel; a librarian when I'm looking for reference material; a good soul anytime I look lost in a place with which I'm not familiar.

For the most part, when someone asks us the question, "what are you looking for?", it's relatively easy to respond. We usually have a general idea of what we are seeking. But when Jesus, the Messiah, asks the question, the response doesn't come so easy. After all, he's the Son of God and if truth be told, there have been many times throughout our lives when we think we know what we are looking for and find ourselves more confused and *without* the very thing we were hoping to find.

In looking back on my 62+ years, I wish I had a nickel for every time I was sure my happiness would come from some other person only to be disappointed and less happy. Or, when I was seeking a sense of wholeness thinking that I would find it from a course or seminar that promised change. In times of trouble and a sense of deep profound loss, how often did I look for every artificial means for comfort that offered no comfort at all. When I wanted to relieve my conscience after choices that led to my sinfulness, how long and hard I sought justification for my actions instead of seeking forgiveness. Or, how about the times when people have treated me unjustly and I held tight to my injury while seeking sympathy from others rather than doing the hard work of forgiveness myself.

What am I looking for? This is such a profound question that Jesus asks all of us.

In John's gospel, John the Baptist and two of his followers watched as Jesus walked by them. John the Baptist, recognizing that Jesus was the Messiah said, "Behold the Lamb of God". The two disciples hearing what John had said began following Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?"

They addressed him as 'teacher' and inquired where he was staying. Jesus then invited them to come. One of the disciples named Andrew went to get his brother Simon to join them and told him they had found the Messiah and then brought him to Jesus.

It is difficult in this day and age, with all the distractions of this world, to keep our focus on the next world, but it is precisely why Jesus came: to build his Kingdom and lead us all to his Father in heaven. His mission here was to love, teach, heal, and help transform us body, mind, and spirit so that we can know true peace and the fullness of unconditional love.

Every person who is following Jesus was, at one time, looking for something more than what they were able to find without Our Lord. When we seek to live a life of fullness in Christ, we have to be willing to leave the comfort of where we are now and follow him. Just like the disciples in our gospel, when Jesus says, "come and you will see", there needs to be a willingness on our part to follow in his ways. It requires taking a risk and letting go of the things of this world and trusting that the Spirit will lead us to where God wants us and will give us everything we need to get there. It's not an easy road, but it is a sure path to eternal happiness. Seek Him and you will find everything you are looking for - everything your heart desires!