

Looking for Love
 (Made for Love, Part 2)
 Acts 17:24-28, Jeremiah 29:10-14
 January 28, 2018

Intro: Everybody is searching for something.

■ **Emptiness**

■ **Nagging, gnawing hunger**

■ **Achievement**

■ **Money**

■ **Relationships**

■ **(Darker)**

■ **Drugs, Sex, Rock 'n' Roll,**

■ **“A center that I cannot find / is known to my unconscious mind.” W.H. Auden https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/w_h_auden**

TR What will fill that void?

1. Everybody's looking for a relationship with God.
 - **Philosopher and Mathematician Blaise Pascal once said, "the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite object, that is to say, only be God Himself."**¹
 - **Like "Extreme" sang in 1991, "There's a hole in my heart that can only be filled by you."**
 - **jigsaw puzzles.**
 - **The Psalms give voice to this universal human hunger.**

Psalm 42:1-2 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

Psalm 63:1 *O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You in a dry, weary land where there is no water.*

■ **We crave our Creator. We long for His love.**

2. Everybody's looking for love.

I John 4:16 *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

3. God wants us to seek Him.

Isaiah 55:6-7 *Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

II Chronicles 7:14 *If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Matthew 6:31-33 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 7:7-8 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."*

4. God designed us to seek Him.

Acts 17:26-27 *From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him*

and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

- Remember we are not the result of random variation and natural selection.
- You are God's masterpiece.
- You have a purpose.
- C.S. Lewis put it this way:
God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us happiness and peace a part from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.²

5. God wants us to find Him.

- Like playing hide and seek with a small child.
 Peek-a-boo

Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

6. God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the

radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

John 1:1, 14 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

I John 4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

A Guy Named Gus

Let me tell you about a guy named Gus. Gus was hungry for a sense of purpose. He had that gnawing, nagging hunger that would not let him go.

No matter what he tried, the yearning remained. And he tried nearly everything.

The "party scene" left him empty.

He joined a **gang** for awhile, but that was futile.

He dabbled in **astrology** and even got involved in a **cult**. One of his favorite pastimes was to **argue with Christians** and ridicule their faith. Yet before long he saw how shallow his own beliefs were, and felt that same old spiritual starvation driving him to search some more.

Perhaps **romance and sensuality** would be his answer. So he lived with a woman and they had a child. Later he abandoned them, took them back in, and finally kicked her out.

He became engaged to another girl, but could not remain faithful until their marriage. His passion brought him pleasure, but not true happiness. The yearning was still there.

With a brilliant mind and a love of learning, he turned to **philosophy and literature**. He mastered many lofty thoughts, but sensed that Truth eluded him still. He wanted more.

His mother told him to **read the Bible**, so he did. But he considered himself too sophisticated for that sort of thing. He rejected the Scriptures as **silly fables**.

Ambition. Aspirations. A stellar career. He tried these as well, and he was highly successful. He achieved great prestige for a person his age. But was it enough? Was he finally happy? No. The gnawing continued. The restlessness remained.

Fortunately, he finally found the answer he craved. He had been persuaded to give Jesus Christ an honest, open-minded hearing.

Many people who reject Christianity have not taken the time seriously to study its claims and examine its plausibility. They consider a simplistic expression, almost a caricature of the Faith and dismiss that.

But our young man came to a fairer frame of mind.

With that equitable attitude he one day read Romans 13:13-14, ... ***not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the lower nature.***

It seemed to him that these words had been written particularly for him. All the things he had found so futile were

spurned, and only one option remained. Suddenly the search was over! He found in Christ what he longed for all along.

Gus' full name was Aurelius Augustinus. We know him as St. Augustine, one of the greatest thinkers and preachers in history. Later in life, Augustine began his prayerful autobiography with these beautiful words:

You are great O Lord, and greatly to be praised; Your power is great and Your wisdom in infinite And we would praise You, we who ore part of Your creation, we who carry our mortality around with us, the witness of our sins, even the witness that You resist the proud. Still we would praise You, we who are part of Your creation. You awaken us to delight in praising You, for You have made us for Yourself. And our hearts are restless till they find rest in You.³

¹Pascal, Blasie *Penses* 425

²Lewis, C.S., *Mere Christianity* (Maemillan Paperbacks edition 19 0) p. 54

³Saint Augustine *Confessions* Book 1

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