

## **“End the Search”**

John 7:32-39

All of us know what it is like to lose or misplace something. It can be so frustrating. When we realize the item is missing, the first thing we try to do is remember where we last saw it. And then we begin searching for it. Sometimes, we find what we’re looking for, and sometimes we get to the place where we just give up the search.

Hello friend, I’m J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, we’re an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

On today’s broadcast of *Hope for Today*, we’re continuing our study in the Gospel of John and our Bible teaching will be focused on the idea of searching. Are you searching for meaning and purpose in your life? If you’re already a Christ-follower, this teaching will encourage you because you have found your life purpose in Him. But if you don’t know Jesus, this teaching will show you how to find Him and bring your search to an end. So, I urge you to stay tuned.

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today’s teaching from the Gospel of John, “End the Search.” But before he does that, let’s pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for giving my friend and me the privilege of meeting together around your Word. Thank you that we can open the Holy Book of God and study a portion of it to learn more about you.

And now, Father, as Dr. Yoder comes to open the Word for us, I pray that you will open our hearts to the truth. I pray for my listening friend to understand the importance of making the choice to follow Jesus. I pray this in His name, Amen.

Are you still searching, seeking, looking, and longing for something? Do you know what you need? Deep in the heart of every man, woman and child is a longing for rest. One great African Christian many years ago said, “Our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” But the question is, “Where can I find Him?” That is a most important question.

I want to help you END THE SEARCH. Therefore, I take you to the Bible and the words of Jesus in John 7:32-39.

- 32 *The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.*
- 33 *Then said Jesus unto them, yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.*
- 34 *Ye shall seek me and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*
- 35 *Then said the Jews among themselves, whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?*
- 36 *What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?*
- 37 *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If y man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*
- 38 *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*
- 39 *(But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

These words teach us what STEPS are necessary if we ever expect to end our search.

### **First, The Search is Clarified.**

Time according to Jesus was very important. He said there is only a little while, “Yet a little while I am with you.” He was showing that time is limited. You can’t just waste time and expect to end your search. Jesus clarified the search. The time is now, not later.

The object is also important because there’s nobody like Jesus. He said, “You are going to seek for me, and you will not be able to find me.” Oh yes, my friend, it is very, very important that you make the right search and that you have the right object in view. Believe me, time is important. The opportune time is now, not tomorrow; this very moment because Jesus said, “You are going to search for me (He said this to those Pharisees) and you are not going to be able to find me”. Men have often tried in vain; they have searched and searched but they have found no rest because they have not found Him.

My friend today is your day to seek Jesus. I am glad to tell you that you can find Him. Ah, but you must search for Him while you can. You must be sure that the object of your search is Jesus Christ.

Well, Jesus clarified the search. But when He said what He did to clarify it, they thought

### **The Search is Mystified**

They said, “Where is He going to go? How can He say we cannot come to Him?” You see, human reason blocked their understanding. Their minds got in the way. He had come from God, you see, and they failed to understand that.

Some still fail to understand that. They still believe that Jesus did not come from God. But He said, “I’m going back to God.” On this occasion they did not understand where He was going. But He said, “I’m going and you are not going to be able to come where I am.”

Let me point out something to you, my friend. Human existence is unqualified to go where Jesus is. The flesh has its limitation. Your bodily physical existence now is going to need to undergo some changes if you are going to go where He has gone. That is what these people did not understand.

There is another existence beyond the flesh. It comes after death. So, in one sense we can say that Jesus mystified the search. He made it more difficult because they tried to reason out what He was saying. My friend don’t let your mind block your search. Be sure that you understand that Jesus came from God and went back to God. That will clarify your search, not mystify it.

There is a final step to end your search which is stated:

### **The Search is Satisfied.**

It was on that last great day of the feast when Jesus stood and gave that great invitation, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.” Well, everybody does thirst. I said in the beginning that in the heart of every man, woman and child there is a longing for rest. Jesus knew that. He said it this way, “If anyone thirst,” because He wanted that decision to rest with the thirsty one, “let him come and drink.” Let him submit himself and understand that he will find the end of his search right here by me.

There was a great invitation. There was also a great satisfaction because Jesus said that inner longing down deep in your heart will be satisfied when you come to Him. He said out of His

inner most being shall flow rivers of water. His soul thirst will be satisfied. Praise the Lord! My dear friend, take Jesus' words seriously if you want to end your search. You can come to Him, Jesus Christ, and when you do, that deep soul thirst inside of you will be satisfied. The search will end when you find Him. To end the search, you must listen to Jesus. He can and will satisfy your innermost being. So, you must come to Him now. Surrender to His invitation and in Him find rest for your soul.

My friend, is there a thirst, a longing, deep inside you that is yet unfilled? Do you sense there is more to life than what you're currently experiencing? Are you searching for meaning and purpose in life? As Dr. Yoder so clearly pointed out in today's teaching, Jesus is inviting you to come to Him and find the object of your search. He promised that if you come to Him in faith, He will fill you with living water. And you will become one of His very own children.

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching "End the Search." We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "End the Search." I'd be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here's the contact information again.

Send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "End the Search." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John's Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.