

ARE YOU READY FOR JESUS?

Many people visualize God as someone who sits comfortably on a throne, remote, aloof, uninterested and indifferent to the needs of mortals, until it may be, they can badger Him into taking action on their behalf. Such a view is wholly false. The Bible reveals a God who, long before it even occurs to us to turn to Him, while we are still lost in darkness and sunk in sin, takes the initiative, rises from His throne, lays aside His glory and stoops to seek until we find Him. God has spoken and acted in Jesus Christ. He has said something. He has done something. Now the question is, "Are we ready to meet Jesus?" He seeks you, are you ready or is something between you and Jesus?

There have been several times when I have talked with someone who has told me that they just couldn't accept the story of Christ to be true and he goes on to explain why. Sometimes my response has been, "If I were to answer your questions to your complete satisfaction, would you be willing to alter your manner of life?" They often smile and walk away. Their real problem is not intellectual but moral.

This then is the spirit in which our search must be conducted. We must cast aside apathy, pride, prejudice and sin, and seek God regardless of the consequences.

LET'S BEGIN

- 1) What are two or three of your biggest questions about Jesus Christ?
- 2) When you think of total commitment to Christ, what is most unsettling about this idea?
 - He might want me to do something I do not want to do.
 - I have too many other issues to deal with right now.
 - He might want me to give up something I want to keep.
 - What if He is not real?
 - He might let me down.
 - I do not want to be ridiculed for my beliefs.
 - other:

READ Mark 10:17-31.

- 1) What admirable qualities did the wealthy man display?

- 2) How did Jesus reveal the area of unwillingness in the man's heart?
- 3) When Jesus told the man to sell everything and give away the proceeds, the man responded immediately - by getting off his knees and walking away. What do you think he had decided that made him do that?
- 4) Fear is the greatest enemy of truth and can paralyze anyone who searches for truth. How do you see fear - or apathy, pride, prejudice and sin - working in the rich man's life?
- 5) Where do you see those hindrances in your own life?
- 6) Jesus looked at the man and "loved him". What encouragement do you draw from Jesus' attitude toward this seeker?
- 7) Christ is very open about the cost of following Him. What benefits does He promise for those willing to pay that cost?

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

- 1) Why do you think Jesus questioned the rich man calling Him "good"?
- 2) The rich man asked Jesus a theological question but was not satisfied with the answer. How willing are you to hear and obey answers Jesus gives to your questions about Him?
- 3) Jesus went right to the point of the wealthy man's greatest obstacle to real faith: He asked the man to give away his wealth and follow Him. If you were that man, what do you think Jesus would ask you to do so you could follow Him?
- 4) John 7:17 tells us that if anyone is willing to do God's will he will know God's teachings. What do you need to deal with so that you will be totally willing to do what God wants?

Open your heart and mind to God in Christ Jesus. Tell Him that you are ready to be confronted by Him no matter how unsettling or inconvenient it is.