

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 02.03.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

THE KING WHO SOUGHT THE LORD (KINDA)

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple: As we journey in our growth into Christlikeness, we become more devoted to God's presence, learning to seek Him with purpose and intentionality, not just in desperation but in every season.

OVERVIEW

The story of King Asa reminds us that seeking God must remain our most passionate pursuit. When we allow it to fall away, it can cost us everything.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: When in life did you most passionately seek after God's presence? Where is your passion now? What shifted?

Step 2: Commit: What "idols" or distractions might God be asking you to remove so that you can seek Him more wholeheartedly?

Step 3: Act: This week, identify one way you can intentionally seek God—not out of crisis, but out of a renewed desire to know Him more.

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 14-16

As we move into the SEEK series, it's important to remember that seeking the Lord isn't a program, a formula, or something reserved for crisis moments. It is simply (but profoundly) about arranging our lives so we are regularly turning our hearts toward Him. No matter where we are or what we're doing, this is what it means to seek God. But the story of King Asa reminds us that seeking isn't a one-time decision or coasting along on yesteryear's experience. It's a lifetime practice of walking a long obedience in the same direction toward our Saviour.

King Asa's reign started strong. He turned the tables on the evil kings that came before him. He tore down idols and removed what wasn't in line with covenantal loyalty to YHWH. And as long as he lived seeking the Lord, he lived in peace and saw great victories for the nation of Judah.

But somewhere along the way, something shifted. It seems that when the pressure lifted, so did his pursuit of God. He stopped removing the things that didn't belong. He became comfortable. Self-sufficient. Complacent. And that complacency came at a cost—not just to his leadership, but to his very life.

Asa's story is an invitation and a challenge to us - probably the most comfortable people in history: The greatest threat to seeking God isn't always struggle—it's success. When we're desperate, seeking God feels natural. But when life is steady, when things are working, when peace is all around us—it's easy to stop feeling like we need Him.

But peace without seeking is an illusion. Asa's reign shows us that as soon as he stopped seeking, peace disappeared. This is important to note: It's not that God withdrew—it's that Asa did.

Maybe that's where you find yourself. Maybe seeking God felt urgent in the past, but now things are good, life is #blessed!, and the urgency has faded. Maybe life is busy, full of good things, and you'd say something like "I just don't have the time to make space for God". Well, there's good news!

Contrary to what so much religion teaches, seeking God is way more about subtraction than addition. It's about letting go of distractions, idols, and self-sufficiency—anything that slowly edges Him out of first place. Then, it's about turning to Him, realising His presence is ready and waiting to be turned towards in every moment of your day. Our job is to simply be intentional in the seeking and the turning.

Interestingly, it's the desperate ones in Scripture who most often receive God's touch—not because He is withholding from others, and not because they're "better" than any others, but simply because they are the ones reaching for Him. The ones who know they have no backup plan. The ones who refuse to let comfort dull their hunger for Him.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. What “hungers” of the world have displaced our hunger for God?
2. How can we as a connect group spur each other on in letting things go that keep us from fully seeking God?

PRAYER

Lord,

We don't want to seek You only in crisis—we want to seek You in every season. Show us what needs to be removed so that we can pursue You with undivided hearts. Keep us from complacency, and give us a hunger that isn't dependent on our circumstances but on who You are.

Amen.