

## SEARCHED FOR AND FOUND

Whenever my wife or daughter cannot find something missing around the house, they always come to me for help. One gift I inherited from my father is a knack for finding missing items. Over the weekend some socks that my daughter ordered on Amazon went missing. The last place any of us remembered seeing them was on the counter beside our fridge after we opened the package when it arrived. My wife looked for them on the weekend but to no avail. On Monday morning my daughter mentioned to me how much she wished we could find those socks she ordered. That was her way of saying, "Dad, you have a new missing case to solve." The search was on.

I began by searching around the counter near the fridge where we last saw them. I next did a quick search of my daughter's room looking under her bed and in her closet to see if they ended up there somehow. When that did not prove successful, I looked in the other bedrooms in our house in case we accidentally put them in one of them. Determined to keep my reputation intact I then searched our laundry room to see if they ended up in a laundry basket. When that did not turn up anything I returned to my daughter's bedroom. I checked behind her pillows and under her bed sheets in case they had gotten covered over. Finding nothing there I turned around and spotted the socks sitting on a wicker shelf covered by a picture that had fallen off the wall a few days earlier. This whole process took about 10-15 minutes start to finish. I came downstairs after finding the socks and presented them to my daughter. Another missing case solved by you-know-who.

After finishing my search, I sat down to begin writing this week's message. Before my search I had another idea in mind for the message, but I found myself thinking about some of the things that helped me be successful in finding the missing sock. I recognized how much thinking and reflecting goes into searching for something. I also realized it takes determination, persistence, and patience. For me it also involves prayer. One thing I am aware of whenever I search for something is that God already knows where it is. I always pray and ask Him to lead me in seeking the lost item. Sitting at my computer Monday morning I realized that all of these attributes account for why I seem to have the confidence of my wife and daughter to find anything missing around the house.

It is things that are valuable or important to us that we tend to put this kind of effort into searching for. This experience on Monday morning reminded me of something Jesus hopes we will put effort into seeking and finding. In one of His many teachings during His Sermon on the Mount Jesus says:

**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. (Matthew 6:33)**

If we follow Jesus' advice here and "***seek the Kingdom of God above all else***" we will find:

- how fulfilling it truly is to put God first and foremost in our lives,
- how our thoughts will be focused more on His desires for us,
- how we can pattern our living based on His character,
- how blessed it is to serve and obey Him in everything.

Just as it takes thought, determination, persistence, and prayer for me to find something I am searching for, it takes these same qualities on our part in order to "***seek God above all else***" in life. Perhaps many of us have already made this effort in seeking to make our relationship with God the top priority in life. It is so important for us to keep seeking to learn more about God so our relationship with Him can be even more fulfilling. If we have not yet made the search for "***The Kingdom of God above all else***" our priority, this season of Lent is the perfect time to begin doing so. Finding God smiling and waiting for us at the end of the search will be a truly blessed experience indeed.

I guess I found two things in my search for my daughter's socks on Monday morning: the socks and an idea for a mid-week message. It was worth the search.

***Keep safe and God Bless,***

***Pastor Dean***