

Finding Jesus

12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." **13** Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. **14** Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Luke 5:12-14

15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. **16** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:15-16

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Matthew 4:12

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Matthew 14:13

Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." **16** "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. Matthew 15:15,16

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Matthew 15:21

Turns out Jesus wasn't hiding. He was seeking.

Are you having a difficult finding Jesus because He is hiding, or are you having a difficult time finding Jesus because you are hiding?

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" **10** He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Genesis 3:8-10

This is my story. I hide because I don't want to be exposed in my fallenness, my darkness. I hide because I'm afraid if the truth about me is known, I will never be loved. I hide from other people. I hide from God. I hide from truth – in a sense, I hide even from myself.

John Ortberg

Turns out you're not seeking, you're hiding.

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

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

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



We don't want God this close. We want him on retainer.

Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus is willing and near? How will you share that truth this week?