

## BFF341 Priests Seek Gods Face

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families Podcast" with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I am a little weary, but good. How are you?

**Scott:** I'd say the same, yeah.

**Steve:** If I didn't have this podcast, I wouldn't have gotten out of bed up. I probably would have slept this morning, but I knew that Scott would be waiting for me, so here I am..

**Scott:** Awesome.

**Steve:** This is day four of our priestly calling as we continue to explore what it means to be a priest, a member of the priesthood of believers.

"Father, help us this morning. We're all coming from different places, and yet we know that You have these specific calls on our life. I thank You for the purpose that You've given to each of us that we're not here just treading water until You come back to rescue us from this world that we live in now.

"We're here to work with You, to believe in You, and You've given us a purpose and a calling, and I appreciate that, and I thank You for it. Help us to understand it more fully today. In Jesus' name. Amen."

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Every once in a while you pick up an article that says people need to have an identity and they need to have a purpose, and they need to belong. I am thankful that I have a purpose. I think that's what keeps people moving. If you have purpose, you have something to get up for in the morning, something to do. This is our purpose that we're seeking today.

In the big picture, God sought us first.

Luke 15:3-6 is the parable of the lost sheep. "He told them this parable, saying, 'What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'"

We know this scripture says that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He didn't come for those that didn't need Him, He came for the sick.

Romans 5:6-8 has a great way of putting this, "While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die, but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

There it is. He died for us even when we were weak, needy, sick, and lost. We weren't calling out to Him. We didn't even know what to call for, and still He sent His Son.

John 1:9–13 “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

He came to His own. People that were supposedly expecting the Messiah, and when He came, they didn't even understand this was Him, and they ended up crucifying Him. This is the seeking God, but what I want to talk about this morning is our response is to seek Him.

This verse came strong to me this last week. I'm going to read it in a couple of different translations. I'm going to start with the King James Version. It's found in Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

I'll read it again, "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

I felt God confirmed to me this week, "Steve, you're seeking me." I am seeking Him, and you know I'm seeking Him, but we're all seeking Him or we wouldn't even be listening to this podcast. We're all in a good position. We believe that God is, the first half of the verse, a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.

I looked into the Greek, and the word for "must" is Delta Epsilon Iota. Spelled in English, it would be D–E–I. Interestingly, it's pronounced D–I–E, die. This Greek word must believe that He is. It means it behooves us. It's absolutely necessary. It must happen.

I looked up a couple of different places where it appears in the New Testament. In Luke, there are three places. Luke 2:49, Jesus, when He was in the temple and His parents couldn't find Him, He said, "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" That's the word. "I had to be there. I must be here. It behooved me, it was absolutely necessary that I would be in My Father's house."

Luke 4:43, He told people, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose. It behooved me to preach the kingdom of God. This is it. This is what I have to do."

Then Luke 9:22, "The Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected." This is why He came. He was trying to educate them and teach them, "It behooves me. It's absolutely necessary that I have to suffer, be rejected, be killed, and be raised up on the third day."

There it is. That's the first part of the verse. He that comes to God must, absolutely necessary, believe that God is. To me, reading the scripture helps build my faith. It builds my God-awareness. It encourages me. It affirms my quest. It just makes me know that God is, which is point number one.

The second half of the verse says, "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Now, not every version uses that word diligently, but it is in the Greek. King James, you win on this one. The word is ekzētēō. It's a combination of Ek, which means come out of and come into, and zētēō, which means to seek.

According to Strong's Bible Hub, to seek out, to demand, to inquire the outcome intensely and personally desired by the seeker. It emphasizes this. This is an intense desire. This is a diligent seeking. This is not casual. This is intense. That's what I'm trying to get across.

Now, the amplified version brings this across beautifully. "Whoever would come near to God must necessarily believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him out." Isn't that good?

I find myself attracted to the amplified version, especially when I'm looking at the Greek. In English, we try to say one word to express what really should be expressed by several words. Technically, there's only one word, ekzētēō, which we translate seeking, but when you add diligently and earnestly, it fills out the picture.

All right. We're on this path. We're seeking Him. We're seeking Him intentionally. We're seeking Him diligently. OK, now, I'm going to bring you back to something that I've talked about several times. I don't know if everybody has listened to all 300 podcasts, but here you go.

You remember when David was bringing up the Ark. This was a big event. He had all Israel out there. He got a new cart with his buddies to drive the cart. Uzzah jumped off the cart for a second because the oxen had stumbled and the Ark was in danger of falling. He touched it, and he died.

It's such a shocking story because David had done everything properly. He even consulted with the leaders. David was rightly shook up.

If you only read the account the first time it appears in Samuel, it leaves you puzzled, but then when you read Chronicles, you get the rest of the picture. David began to seek God differently. He was seeking God intentionally and diligently.

I believe he was searching the scriptures like he never had before because his friend had died, and he said, "What did I do wrong? I need to search the scriptures." What he found out was no place in the Bible does it speak about new carts carrying the Ark. The Levites are supposed to carry the Ark.

I did my own study on this. I think it was nine times that God had told them this. I am going to read from 1 Chronicles 15:1-2 where David is seeking God. He finds Him. He figures things out. This is a big turning point for David.

1 Chronicles 15:1-2, "David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, 'No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.'"

This was one of the functions of the priest. The Levites were to carry the Ark and to minister to Him forever. They were to take care of it.

Skipping down to verses 11-13, "Then David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab, and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of Jehovah God of Israel to the place that I have prepared for it. Because you did not carry it at the first, Jehovah our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

We can have the best intentions and the best heart, but we have to seek Him according to scripture. You get that point?

**Scott:** I was just thinking how funny it is that we do that so often. It's so easy to feel like, "Oh, I'm doing this for GOD." You mean to be doing it for GOD, yet there's a way that things work, that He designed them. If you don't seek Him, it might not go as you want. Hopefully, your friend won't die because of it but you know what I mean?

**Steve:** Absolutely. It makes me want to know the ordinances. It makes me want to seek Him properly. Next chapter, 1 Chronicle 16:7-11 "Then on that day David first entrusted to Asaph and his brethren the singing of thanks to Jehovah [as their chief task]: O give thanks to Jehovah, call on His name; make known His doings among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; meditate on and talk of all His wondrous works and devoutly praise them! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! **Seek Jehovah and His strength; yearn for and seek His face and to be in His presence continually!**"

This was their task. This was the task of these priests, and I think we share it.

It's beautiful because he talks about giving thanks. He talks about calling on His name. He talks about singing. He talks about praising him. Then he says -- and this last is powerful -- "Seek Jehovah and His strength. Yearn for and seek His face and to be in His presence continually." That was their calling. That was their purpose. That's our purpose.

This is it. This is what it means to be a priest. We have been doing this. Every one of these studies, we have been reading. We have a portion based on Psalm 100 where we give thanks. We praise His name. We sing. There it is, right there in 1 Chronicles 16, spelled out. These are his ordinances.

We just mentioned this, but I want to say it again. There are several times when he talks about glorying in His holy name. These studies that I'm putting together are a combination of not only Psalm 100 and the Tabernacle but also the Lord's Prayer,

which says when Jesus was asked, "Teach us to pray," He says, "OK. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

This is so important that we hallow His name and that we know His name. I checked it again this morning, over 6,000 times in the Bible -- Yahweh, Jehovah, however you want to translate it, say it in Hebrew, say it in English to the best of our ability, but that's His name.

I noticed as I was reading through again. In Exodus, Moses saw the burning bush. He turned aside, and GOD says to him, "Moses, Moses." He said, "Here I am." He told him to take off the sandals, and he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God.

At the very beginning of their relationship, Moses was nervous about being in God's presence, but by the end, he didn't want to come out from the presence of God. Moses had learned to love God. Moses had learned to seek God. Moses had learned to diligently, earnestly, and intentionally seek His face, which was what it really means to come into His presence, come into before His face.

Later in Exodus 3, Moses says, "OK, I'm going to go back to these guys, and they're going to say to me, "Who sent you?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." Beautiful stuff. Then he says, "This is my name forever. This is my memorial name to all generations."

He used His name in the 15th verse He says, "Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has sent me to you. This is My memorial name."

I get great encouragement to continue to persevere when it says, "Forever to all generations," continually, perpetuity. Luke 11, Jesus encourages us once again, "Ask, It will be given to you. Seek and you will find."

This is something we want to do is have an attitude to be diligently seeking God and seeking His face and seeking His presence continually. Do we have time now to read through the study for today? I think if I read it quickly, we can.

I'm choosing one topic based on one aspect of God's character. One of the reasons I do that is because, in Psalm 100, it says, "Come into His presence with singing. Enter into His court with praise." Then it talks about His character, it says, "Know ye that Jehovah He is God. It is He that has made us and not we ourselves." It talks about we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

When I chose these character qualities, some of them are specified right in Psalm 100. It is He that has made us. We studied Creator and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. He's also our Shepherd.

Today I'm going to read about the Good Shepherd. John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me." Goodness. I can stop right there and start crying. We know Him and that's a gift. The only way we know Him is because He

sought us, He opened our eyes. We've been born again, and now we can see the King and the kingdom.

Shout joyfully. I'm not going to shout, I'm going to say it with emphasis. Isaiah 40:10–11. "Behold, the Lord Jehovah comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in His arms.

What a great promise and affirmation of the truth. Now we come to the singing portion, which you always make me sing. With my raspy voice this morning, I'm not going to do that, but you know the song "The Lord's My Shepherd?" [sings] "The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by."

We're seeking Him according to the ordinances, according to what He says in Psalm 100, "Make a joyful shout, a glad shout, a glad psalm, and sing," so we've sung and now we give thanks to Him.

Psalm 100:3–4, "We are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture. We enter Your gates with thanksgiving and Your courts with praise. We give thanks to You and bless Your name." Psalm 79:13, "We Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever from generation to generation we will recount Your praise."

Psalm 23:1–4, "Jehovah is My shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Thank You Father for being our shepherd. Amen. Then praise His name. "I extol You My God, My king, My shepherd. I bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I bless You. I will praise Your name forever and ever." That's Psalm 145:1–2.

"You are the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep," John 10:11. "O shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock." Psalm 80:1. Ezekiel 34:15, "I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord Jehovah."

We can't do this without magnifying the lamb. Revelation 7:17, "The Lamb on the throne will be their shepherd." What a beautiful image, the lamb will be the shepherd. "He will lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

I think you pointed this to me, Scott, a long time ago. John 10:2–4, "He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him, the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him for they know his voice."

May God help us to have ears to hear our shepherd when he calls to us.

Then the blood, Hebrews 13:20–21, "May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant equip you with every good thing that you may do His will working in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Thank you for the blood that makes us perfect, and doing every good work. The washing of water. You have been born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable through the living and abiding word of God, for all flushes, like grass and all its glory, like the flower of grass, the grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." 1 Peter 1:23–25.

We're believing in Jesus twice daily." I don't know if you're getting that part, but I envision myself I'm in a tabernacle now. I have washed my feet in the basin, I have believed in the blood that was shed on the altar. I'm going to be filling up the golden lamp stand with the oil of the Spirit.

Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me, because Jehovah has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound," and believing in Jesus who was pierced for our sins.

Isaiah 53, "He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's path to follow our own, yet Jehovah laid on Him the sins of us all like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, so he did not open his mouth."

Then we get to pray. We get to offer incense. I've already mentioned this. His disciples asked Him, "Teach us to pray." One of the things that He taught them to pray was to deliver us from evil.

OK, by the time people listen to this podcast, the elections will be behind us, but our streets and roads are inundated with signs. Is that the case in Ohio?

**Scott:** Absolutely.

**Steve:** OK. There are signs everywhere. Lot of the signs trouble me. These signs remind me that flesh and blood is not our enemy. Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers. These signs prompt me to ask God to deliver us from evil. It prompts me to bind the strong man.

**Steve:** Flesh and blood is not our enemy. In Jesus' name, Father, deliver us from evil. Deliver our country from evil. Regardless of the outcome of these elections, I am going to continue to be a priest unto you. I'm going to stand with you.

I'm going to stand for truth. I'm going to stand for your Kingdom, and I'm going to say, and continue to say, deliver us from evil in Jesus' name. I'm going to not leave it there, but I'm also going to pray and let your Kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Amen.

"Father, if we don't have that yearning and that earnestness, and that diligence, I pray that you'll put it in us. Help us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Help us to love your presence. Moses went from hiding to enjoying and reveling in your presence.

"Whatever it takes to get us to that point, search us out. Search out our triggers, our baggage, and all the stuff that keeps us from believing the truth. We love because you first loved us. Help us, Father, to love you with everything in us, in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families Podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.