

# How Bad Do You Want It?



By

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*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21*

*O God thou art my God; **Early will I seek thee:** Psalms 63:1b*

How many of you are actively pursuing a deeper, richer, more personal relationship with God? Well, perhaps this word today is meant for you.

There is imbedded in the scripture text for today an unasked question. A question that must be addressed. A question that cannot be ignored, a question that challenges the very core of who we say we are a followers of Christ. And that question is **“How Bad Do You Want It?”**

In the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter of The Gospel according to St.

Mark, the story is told of a rich, young, ruler who, having followed Jesus, observed His wondrous miracles and listened to His Powerful messages, became so moved by His word that he came running to Jesus and asked *“Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life.”* In other words, how can I secure my salvation?

*And Jesus said unto him, “**Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God.***

***Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit Adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.”***

*And he answered and said unto him “Master, all these have I observed from my youth.”*

*Then Jesus beholding him loved him and said unto him, “**One thing thou lackest: go thy way sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and***

***thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come take up thy cross, and follow me.”***

*And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.* **How Bad**

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The young man had passed the litmus test for righteousness, he had kept the commandments sense he was a child or so he thought. Jesus was happy for him that he had remained so steadfast. Now to put the icing on the cake there was one thing left for him to do and that was to put his priorities in order, sell your stuff. Do you really want eternal life? Well tell me **How Bad Do You Want It?** Are you, like the writer of the book of Hebrews, willing to “*lay aside every weight and the sin that would so easily beset us*” Hebrews 12:1b, to follow Jesus? Or are you like the rich young ruler, do you have too much stuff? **How Bad Do You Want It?**

Jesus says “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:21 You can tell one’s treasures by the security that they place around them. Extra precaution is always taken for one’s valuables. No expense is spared to protect what is truly valuable. But tell me, is there any treasure greater than oneness with God? Well then,  
**How Bad Do You Want It?**

Hear the scripture again: And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

The operative words there are “**ALL YOUR HEART**”  
*“Thou shalt Love the Lord thy God with All thy Heart,”*  
With the very essence of life that dwells with in you!  
No measure less than **all** is good enough. No matter how honorable your intentions, without 100% of your being, you will not be successful! **How Bad Do You Want It?**

If you were to ask the Psalmist How Bad Does he want oneness with God he would tell bad enough to

say **“Early will I seek thee.”** It’s not good, wise or prudent to wait until it is late in the day, who knows if late will even be an option? Isaiah admonishes *“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.”* Let me clear something up here, the Lord is not hiding. He is not playing hide and seek. What the Psalmist is conveying to us is our opportunity to pursue a true and meaningful relationship with God is now. We are given no guarantees for tomorrow’s opportunities. If we are going to find Him, now is our only chance! He The Lord is not a whimsical Being that is here today and gone tomorrow, but we are the ones that are limited. He is near now! He is the one who declares *“Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me”* Revelation 3:20 God is not hard to find, but action on our part is a must! Again he says **“I stand at the door and knock”**, The Lord is doing His part, He is making Himself available, but we must take action and open the door.

When can He be found? Now! Where can He be found? He is standing at the door of our hearts. What must we do? Open the door. If there is anything blocking or obstructing our path to the door, lay it aside, remove it and open the door! Ask Him to come in. Invite Him into your life. He guarantees you that He will come in. **How Bad Do You Want It?**