

**All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1993 -- 2006 Holiness Data Ministry**

**Duplication of this disc (CD or DVD) by any means is forbidden,
and copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this disc.**

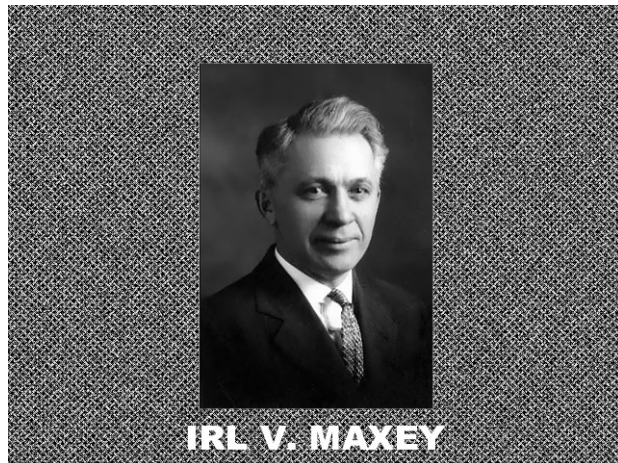
**SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

* * * * *

**Digital Edition 02/21/06
By Holiness Data Ministry**

* * * * *



INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This sermon is both undated and unlocated. However, it follows a sermon in the same notebook that was written in 1918, apparently in Port Angeles, Washington, and the internal evidence in this item leads me to believe that it was also written in Port Angeles, Washington. Please see my bracketed comments, one within the text, and one following the text of this unfinished message.

I am not sure, but, because of its brevity and its abrupt end, I suspect that this written version of the sermon is unfinished. However, I think it highly likely that the written version of papa's sermons were simply a concise synopsis of that upon which he enlarged to much greater length in his oral deliveries. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 21, 2006.

* * * * *

SERMON TEXT:

Matthew 7:7 -- "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

* * *

There could be no greater assurance given to a soul than my text. It is not: "Seek and you perhaps will find," nor is it: "Seek and you will partly find." Ah no! Rather to everyone who really seeks to find God shall -- mark you -- SHALL find Him.

I have sometimes wondered why all of these great spiritual facts were hidden from us. "Ask" implies something we may be sure about, while at the same time some are certain that the "finding" is for us to have. "Seek" implies we are sure we need a thing, but the thing we need is hidden. Why is it hidden? Why is it "the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honour of kings is to search out a matter" (Proverbs 25:2)?

I wonder if God really does hide the facts? Let us go to His Word and we shall find out whether does hide things. Read in your Bible Isaiah 59:1-2 -- "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Again, Jesus said to His disciples: "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them" (Mark 4:11-12).

So we find that "sin" is the great hider of all the great spiritual facts to every heart in the world, and Jesus clothed His teaching in a veneer of earth so that the real hungry could discover His meaning, while the gross sinner would not.

God spoke in the cloud, the Holy Place was veiled, and the great spiritual facts of earth are veiled by the flesh, so that they to those who are in the flesh it remains veiled.

Again, spiritual facts are hidden by environment. Think of the teaching of the Pharisees -- how it filled every devout Jew that the Messiah should come as a conquering King greater than Judas Maccabeus, yes, greater than any Caesar. He

would outshine Solomon in splendor or Joshua as a Leader, and Samuel in judgment.

When Jesus really came He was hidden to their view. I tell you, the spiritual concepts of a church organization often hide some of the great facts of Jesus from our heart. Also, the way one prays either makes it easier or harder for souls in a community to find Jesus. Again, the way you live often hides the great facts of Jesus from the hearts of people. So, don't forget that the teaching, praying, and living are great hidens in the formal churches of today -- hidens of the spiritual facts God would have you get.

Oh, it is awful that a soul must clear the rubbish of this sort of hidens in order to find God! How He should, and would, shine here!*

[*Papa's preceding remarks are part of what leads me to believe that this unfinished sermon was probably written for his Baptist congregation in Port Angeles, Washington. Perhaps he had in mind the erroneous teachings of most Baptists on entire sanctification as some of the "hidens" of God and His Truth in that city.]

Again, environment is molded by heredity, so that the forces of heredity often hide God. You take a child from religious ancestry and it is much easier for him or her to understand that God speaks. Your grandfather and grandmother on both sides walked with God, so that when you came into this world your parents had also walked and talked with God. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). I tell you, the way is clear if your grandparents and parents have been Christians.

Again, if all the way back your forebears have been in sin, then often how dark and hard the way seems. Of course in all of this it is "sin" which has darkened and hid the facts.

But you say, I know that these are hidden facts and I want to know them. How may I seek?

Now, these facts are spiritual, and God is a Spirit, and "the true worshippers" must "worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23). It is only through "spirit and truth" that God can come into your heart. His work might appeal to your mind, and He can and will influence your thinking, but He can only reveal Himself by His Spirit to your heart.

Therefore, you must seek with your heart. It is said of Ezra that he "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10).

First, prepare your heart by repentance and contrition. And, when going at this, you must make up your mind to seek until you find, knowing that God has said, "Seek and ye SHALL find."

You remember the woman Jesus refers to in the parable who had lost a coin. She simply searched every corner of the room and swept the house until she found it. Again, be assured in His Word: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever.." (Deuteronomy 29:29).

I once read of a man who went prospecting in the mountains and found a rich gold mine. When he came back, he told several of his friends about the place and directed them to a certain spot, and said, "From there on the way is blazed, so you can easily find the way." The man who found the place did not go with the party of his friends for some reason. One morning, bright and early, they started on their way with full equipment for mining.

They traveled all that day and camped that night. Several days of travel and nights of camping followed, but still no blazed way was found. All of them but one man finally gave it up. "No, I will not go back," he said. "I believe the fellow told the truth. The gold is there and the way is blazed -- not so easily, perhaps, for all to find, but I will find it. Give me some of the equipment." He stayed and searched. Ah! There was the first blaze on the tree! How quickly he found the place and the gold. He searched till he found.

We too must have the help of others who have found the way. I remember how I went out time after time on clear, summer nights and looked for the Big Dipper. One night, a hired man said to me, "Did you ever see the Big Dipper?" "No," I said, "I have searched and searched among the stars, but have not found." He led me out from the cedars till we had clear view. Then he said, "See that star and that star and that?" "Yes. Oh! I see it now!" Well, why did I not see that before? Because I did not know how to look. I needed help in order to know how to look.

So, we find four men carrying one man to Jesus, and that man needed the help of all four of them in order to find Jesus. Bartimaeus sat beside the road begging, and friends helped him get to where Jesus was. Now do not forget that it takes Preachers, Deacons, S.S. Supt., B.Y.P.U.* President, and all to help lost souls find Jesus.

[*I suspect that the anonym "B.Y.P.U." stood for something like: "Baptist Young People's Union" -- and thus provides what I think is probably another indication that this sermon was written in Port Angeles, Washington, and was intended for papa's Baptist congregation in that city. Alas! Here the written version of this sermon ends. I suspect that there may have been more to it -- even in a more concise, written version.]

* * * * *

THE END OF THIS SERMON