

---

---

## “What Are You Looking For?”

Matthew 6:31-33

---

---

03-06-22

### Introduction:

The Western Church appears to be in trouble. Major denominations are arguing and dividing over Biblical truths vs. societal “tolerance”. The number of people who regularly attend a church is dropping as people reject the need to even go to church ... and the church seems to be losing its social and moral influence in society ... perhaps it is time to ask what exactly is wrong?

### Some Surprising Statistics:

Only 51% of people polled believe in a traditional view of God, 56% think Satan is an influential spiritual being, but 49% are not sure the Biblical God exists. 44% believe Jesus did not live a sinless life but did in fact sin while living as a man. People said they went to church for encouragement in order to leave feeling good about themselves. 32% often left church feeling disappointed and 44% said they left feeling guilty. “Church hopping” and even simply not attending church are a growing trend. Perhaps it is time we asked ourselves “Why do I attend church?” “What exactly am I looking for?”

#### I. The Crowd of 5,000 – John Chapter 6

- A. Illnesses Healed And Miraculously Fed
- B. Returned To Jesus For More Of The Same
- C. Did Not Like Jesus’ Response

#### II. The Rich Young Ruler – Luke 18:18-23

- A. Jesus – A “Good” Teacher
- B. Pride In His Own Goodness And Obedience To The Law
- C. Wanting Add “Jesus” to His Lifestyle ... Not Give Up His Lifestyle

#### III. Nicodemus – John 3 Chapter 3

- A. Nicodemus – A Respected Jewish Leader And Teacher
- B. Sought To Talk To Jesus Whom He Called A “Teacher From God”
- C. Confronted With His Own Lack Of Understanding And Knowledge

#### IV. The Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12

- A. Wise Men From The “East”
- B. An Understanding Of Biblical Prophecy
- C. A Willingness To Take A Long, Arduous Journey
- D. Came Simply To Worship And Give Gifts To The Newborn King

### Conclusion:

It is so easy to get caught up in our lives...to focus on our needs and be content with our “religious” understanding and activities ... and miss the real reason for the Church in the first place ... Jesus Christ, the one who loved us enough to pay our sin debt and reconcile us to God.

He is the foundation of His church ... He is the reason we are forgiven ... and He should be our focus when we gather together... seeking first His kingdom, His will and purpose ... for He promises that if we do that everything else – our needs, our desires, or spiritual understanding will be met in Him...