

Understanding Our Times...

and the Biblical Path Forward

# the Empty Quest

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Understanding Our Times...

the Cosmic Battle

the Real Pandemic

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the Empty Quest

The Hunger for Significance

# the Empty Quest

“**Everything** they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long...”

Matthew 23:5

# phylacteries

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and **bind them on your foreheads.**

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

## tassels

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.

# the Empty Quest

“Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long...”

Matthew 23:5

why?

the Hunger for Significance

# the Hunger for Significance

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ.”



Blaise Pascal



## the Cure

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28:30

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance

## Sermon on the Mount

doing good deeds

praying

fasting

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## doing good deeds

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:1

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## doing good deeds

“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:2-4

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance

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# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## praying

“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:5-6

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## praying

“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Matthew 6:7-8

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance

## Sermon on the Mount

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# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## fasting

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-18

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance

## Sermon on the Mount

doing good deeds

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what is true treasure?

# Jesus on the Hunger for Significance      Sermon on the Mount

## what is true treasure?

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

## what is true bread?

“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not **satisfy**?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Isaiah 55:1-2

what will  
satisfy  
this hunger?

only the love of Jesus Christ

only the love of Jesus Christ

this brings true, lasting, satisfying significance

do you want the significance of the world?

or

do you want the significance of the Lord?

the human significance tank



## Saul's significance drained

Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with other musical instruments. The women sang as they played, and said,  
*“Saul has slain his thousands,  
And David his ten thousands.”*  
Then Saul became very angry...

## Saul's significance drained

Then Saul became very angry, for this lyric displeased him; and he said, "They have given David credit for ten thousands, but to me they have given credit for only thousands! Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David with suspicion from that day on.

Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit...

the only thing that can truly fill the tank

true agape/chesed love of Christ

what is “truth”?

what is “truth”?

Two great themes in scripture:

Old Testament

New Testament



For the law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

what is “love”?

*Agape/Chesed:*

the steadfast, sacrificial zeal that  
seeks the **true good** of  
another

what is “g r a c e”?

*Agape/Chesed:*

the steadfast, sacrificial zeal that  
seeks the **true good** of  
an enemy

the prodigal son



A detailed oil painting focusing on the lower half of several figures. In the center, a hand with a weathered, aged appearance reaches out from the left, its index finger touching the top of a foot. The foot is wearing a simple, dark leather sandal with multiple straps. To the right, another foot in a similar sandal is visible, resting on a dark, textured surface. In the background, other feet and sandals are partially visible, suggesting a group of people. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the skin, the frayed edges of a white cloth, and the details of the sandals. The overall mood is one of compassion and care.

what can truly heal?

what can truly satisfy?

virtually every story in the Bible

from Eve to Cain to Babel to Saul to Nebuchadnezzar...

Solomon

how do we see it played out in our times?

how is it being played out in your life?

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next: **the Biblical Path Forward**

how to engage the outsider

in hostile times

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# Understanding Our Times... 7 Threats Converging Today



1. Rise of the Scoffer and the Depraved Mind



2. Rise of Homo Deus and Meo-Christianity



3. Loss of the Noble Male & Virtuous Female & the Rise of Malevolent Compassion



#4. The Consolidation of Massive Earthly Power



5. Rise of a Demonic Worldview



6. Addicted & Soft, Dependent & Lost



7. Attack Upon the Biblical Family

the Biblical Path Forward

