

# Life's Greatest Discoveries

**Introduction.** It must be a great thrill to make an exciting and historically relevant discovery. For example, Marco Polo explored China in 1272. Christopher Columbus discovered America on October 12, 1492. Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean in September, 1513. Magellan completed the first circumnavigation of the world in 1522.

If you had to name the world's most significant discoveries, you might say fire, the wheel, electrical currents, the structure of matter in elements, cellular theory, the laws of thermodynamics, antibiotics, etc.

But there are some discoveries of greater significance than these. If we ever want to have a satisfied, fulfilled life, we must make these discoveries. These discoveries do not have to happen by chance. We are going to list and study them for everyone's benefit.

## I. ***Man's Discovery Of Himself***

- A. In Luke 15:17, the "prodigal son" came to himself or he realized his pitiful condition. He had lost himself and he had lost his best judgment (Matthew 16:26).
- B. His discovery of himself was preceded by his painful experiences (Luke 15:14-16; 2 Chronicles 33:11-13). Some never find themselves until they have these bitter experiences. Paul called this "godly sorrow" in 2 Corinthians 7:10 (cf. Matthew 26:75).
- C. His discovery of himself was followed by reflection, determination, and action (Luke 15:17-20). A penitent person returns to a better way of life (Psalm 34:18; 51:17; Ezekiel 18:28).
- D. Paul realized his condition when he came of age (Romans 7:7-11). The law of Moses defined sin, and Paul realized that he was a sinner. We call this the "age of accountability" now and there may even be young ones in the audience who are beginning to discover their sinfulness and need of another discovery.

## II. ***Man's Discovery Of His Savior***

- A. Discovery of self is great but we must discover the power outside of ourselves. To turn from evil is great, but we must complete the circle and embrace good. Paul wrote of the way in which this is found (Romans 7:24-25).
- B. One who finds the Savior finds life's supreme need.
  1. Christ is the Lamb of God (Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29).
  2. Christ is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6; Ephesians 2:14).
  3. Christ is the Great Physician (Isaiah 61:1; Mark 2:17).
- C. The power outside of ourselves is the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16-17). Jesus Christ is found in the gospel and it is the explanation

of the righteousness of God (Isaiah 62:12; Micah 4:6-7). That righteousness can be ours if we choose to obey its commands.

- D. We should seek the Lord while He may be found (Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 6:33; 7:7; cf. Hebrews 12:17). Christ and the kingdom of heaven is a wonderful treasure that must be found and held on to at all costs (Matthew 13:44-46).
- E. "Seeking" and "calling upon the Lord" means obedience. This begins with hearing and culminates in baptism (Acts 2:21; 22:16; Romans 10:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:2).

### III. ***Man's Discovery Of His Brother***

- A. Andrew found his own brother Simon and brought him to Jesus (John 1:41-42). Having found ourself and our Savior, we need to find others who want a Savior (Matthew 22:39).
- B. The Samaritan woman told some friends who needed Christ (John 4:28-30). One quarter of those who do not attend any religious service today say they would if they were asked. They are looking for light (Acts 8:31), so we need to go fishing for men (Matthew 4:19).
  - 1. Make a list of people you would like to invite. They may be those who do not attend any service, those who have fallen away, or those in religious error. Always be thinking of people and try to invite a certain number of people to services each week.
    - a) The apostles, in John 4:8, who had spent much time with Jesus and had a much greater understanding of who He was, had just gone into the city with absolutely no spiritual response from the Samaritans. Why? Because they went into town to buy food, not to talk to people about Jesus.
      - (1) Additionally, they probably just saw these people as half-breeds with mixed religion who either did not deserve to accept Jesus as the Messiah anyway.
      - (2) How easy it is to get caught up in the daily pursuits and forget that the people we are talking to have spiritual needs. That checkout clerk may be lost. Our co-workers are in their sins. Many of our family members need the gospel.
    - b) When we offer invitations and recommendations, we need to make them specific and special.
      - (1) Instead of, "Would you like to come to church with me sometime?", let people know about something special.
      - (2) You could also make recommendations like, "If you enjoy good singing, you ought to come check out the Loop 287 Church of Christ." "You have wonderful children. I'll tell you something that has helped my children -- the Bible classes at the Loop 287 Church of Christ." "You know what has helped

me in my marriage more than anything else? Spending time studying and learning the Bible. You ought to come to church with me sometime and see what you could learn that would help you out too.”

- c) The Samaritan woman had great success. However, the text does not say that all believed (John 4:39, 41). When we invite and recommend, not everyone will come. Not everyone who comes will study with us. Not everyone who studies will be converted. But some will. No one will unless we get out there and let people know about what is going on here. She just made a simple invitation: “Come, see a man” (John 4:29). We can say, “Come, see a church.”
- C. In Luke 15:7, commenting on the lost sheep and coin, Jesus said that there is tremendous joy in heaven when a sinner repents. We may can be a small part of that process.

**Conclusion.** When you find yourself, your Savior, and your brother, you have made life’s greatest discoveries and have fulfilled life’s supreme mission. Have you made these discoveries? If you have not, then you need to spend some time in exploration. Let’s hope that the Lord finds you doing as you should when He comes again (Luke 12:43).