

## *Devotion from the past ... 2003*

Read [Mark 1:32 – 37](#)

### **Everyone is Looking for You**

And why not? After all, you're intelligent, good looking, friendly, competent, eager to please, and ready to pursue the nearest pheasant. Oh, sorry. That's the description of a beagle. Leave off the pheasant, and what do you get? An educator in a Lutheran ministry. You!

Now being compared to a beagle might make the hair on your back stand straight up, but please don't be offended. Dogs are known for their loyalty. Dogs are better than weasels or a brood of vipers! But the hole I've dug for myself is getting deeper, isn't it? So, let's try again.

Everyone is looking for you. And why not? After all, you teach in a Lutheran school, congregation, or childcare center. Sometimes people look for you for good reasons. Sometimes, they have other motives.

If everyone is looking for you, there must be a good reason (other than you're intelligent, good looking, friendly, competent, eager to please—and easy to blame). Upon close inspection, you'll see it. You glow! No doubt about it: You radiate the Gospel light. Amidst all the *nos* you will aim at students today, you have the privilege and responsibility of sharing God's resounding YES!

God's resounding YES! comes courtesy of Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and rose not only for your forgiveness but also that you may forgive others. May? *Must* is more like it. And that's why everyone is looking for you. As one who both teaches and lives God's gracious Word, you're a much needed breath of fresh Gospel in a sin-suffocating world.

Not everyone looking for you knows what they're looking for (if you'll excuse the terminal preposition). Some want a Teacher-of-the-Year type. Others want someone to raise their children—or at least baby sit them. Others want you for a personal robot who will do things exactly the way they want them done—and without any professional judgment. And still others want you to impart all the religion their kids need—at least to prepare them for the Confirmation party.

Despite sometimes questionable legitimacy of people wanting you, your mission remains the same. God gave you the mission. Your most vital role is to teach, live, and witness the Gospel. Your role is to turn around the phrase "Everyone is looking for you," and make it "You are looking for everyone." The spiritual nurture of everyone you serve must be your chief concern.

By nature of your ministry, you're in great demand. Sometimes the demands take their toll. Jesus Himself, according to today's Bible reading, felt the need for

some solitary refinement. (Yes, refinement.) He went off by Himself to pray. But not for long. Soon His disciples searched Him out and said, "Everyone is looking for you." So Jesus went to meet and serve "everyone."

If you are to serve "everyone" well, you also must consider yourself one of the "everyone." You need commitment to solitary refinement. That means regular time in prayer, worship, and Bible study. It means proper diet, sufficient sleep, close human relationships, and time set aside to relax and play.

Everyone is looking for you. How will handle your popularity?

**Prayer Thought:** Ask the Holy Spirit to energize and equip you to serve everyone. Also ask for the wisdom and discipline necessary to sufficiently relax and re-create.

Written by Ed Grube  
Director of Publications & Communications  
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***To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil. 4:20)***