

Where in the world do you find God?

Many people are searching for God. They are looking for the ultimate meaning and creative purpose that only an encounter with God can provide. They believe that their life's fulfilment will only be achieved through the knowledge of the divine. But where in the world do you go to find God?

You might say that you find God in the pages of the Bible or in the worship of the Church community. And I wouldn't disagree with your answer based on personal experience. But are these the only two places where you can find God? What if you never read the Bible or attend a Church Service? Surely if God is present in all creation then there must be other ways to encounter Him.

Here is a short parable to make you think about where else in the world you might find God?

A man walked through a field and whispered, *God speak to me* – and a meadowlark sang. But the man did not hear.

So he shouted, *God, speak to me* – and thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen.

He then looked around and said, *God let me see you* – and a rainbow arched through the gloom. But the man did not see.

He whispered, *God let me sense you* – as the flowers of the field gave off their fragrance. But the man did not smell them.

In despair he cried out, *Touch me God, and let me know you are here* – and a butterfly settled on him. But the man brushed it away and walked on.

He pleaded, *Show me a miracle God.* – and nearby a new born calf suckled its mother in the field. But the man did not notice.

This is a great reminder that God's presence is always around us in the everyday things of life which we take for granted. We could add one more.

The man prayed, *God I need your help and encouragement today* – and an e-mail arrived with some good news. But the man deleted it. - And a card with a message of thanks dropped through the letterbox. But the man merely glanced at it before throwing it in the bin.

Don't let's miss out on one of God's everyday blessings or a life transforming experience because it isn't packaged the way we might expect. Let's expect the unexpected from our God of surprises.

If anything the Bible teaches us that it is we who play Hide and Seek with God, rather than God making it difficult for us to find him. Remember Adam, the first man, hiding from God in the garden after he tasted the forbidden fruit.

The Gospels relate how the Risen Lord Jesus comes to find his astonished disciples after the resurrection, be it in a garden, a locked room, the sea shore, the road to Emmaus or a mountain top. Someone once said, *The Bible is not a record of Man's search for God, rather it tells us of God's search for Man.*

But nowhere do we find God so perfectly revealed than in the person and life of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was he who said, *Anyone who has seen me, has seen my Father.*

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