



# BEHOLD THE KING

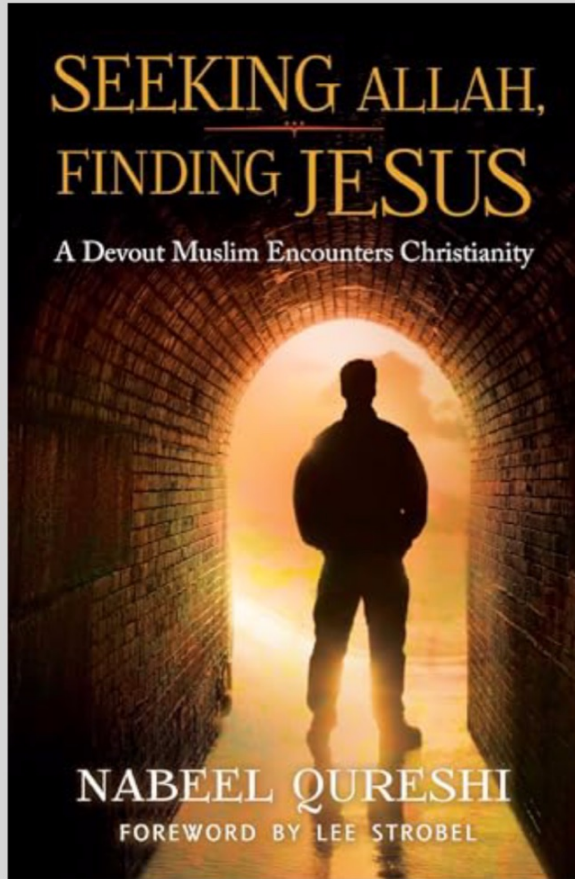
MATTHEW

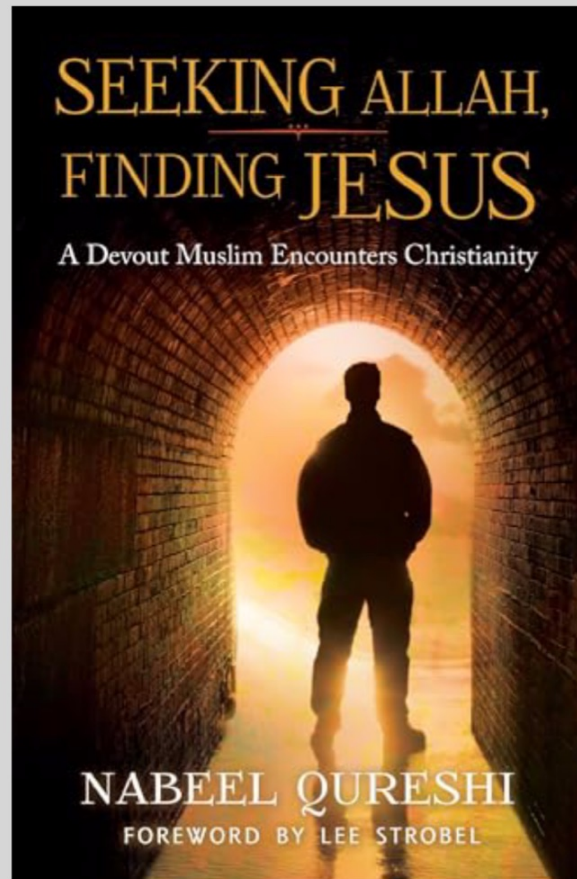
# SEEKING ALLAH, FINDING JESUS

A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity

NABEEL QURESHI

FOREWORD BY LEE STROBEL





“To be Americanized was to be disobedient to your elders, to dress less conservatively, and to spend more time with your friends than your family. Cursing, drinking, and dating were simply unfathomable.”

Nabeel Qureshi

“Well, Caleb, they’re Christians. And Christians hate gay people. Christians don’t like anyone who’s not like them.”



HOW A PASTOR WITH GAY PARENTS  
LEARNED TO LOVE OTHERS  
WITHOUT SACRIFICING CONVICTION

# MESSY GRACE

CALEB KALTENBACH



“She shook her head and began by saying, ‘Do you realize the amazing opportunity you have been given to be raised by two women?’



“Do you know that you are smarter than what you are becoming? Do you also know that you are siding with bigots?!”



“I put my head down and softly said, ‘I’m not like that. I will never be like that.



“I do not agree with your view of sexuality anymore, but that does not impact how much I love you.”

Caleb Kaltenbach



“My journey out of lesbianism was messy and difficult. . . .

“When I became a Christian, I had to change everything – my life, my friends, my writing, my teaching, my advising, my clothes, my speech, my thoughts.

“I was tenured to a field that I could no longer work in. . . . Conversion put me in a complicated and comprehensive chaos.

“I sometimes wonder, when I hear other Christians pray for the salvation of the ‘lost’ if they realize that this comprehensive chaos is the desired end of such prayers.

“Often, people asked me to describe the ‘lessons’ that I learned from this experience. I can’t. It was too traumatic.



“Sometimes in crisis, we don’t really learn lessons. Sometimes the result is simpler and more profound: sometimes our character is simply transformed.”

Rosaria Butterfield

Reasons not to believe:

1. unfamiliar **culture**

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“And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out. . . .” (21-22a)





This woman is described as a . . .  
Gentile (Mk. 7:26)

This woman is described as a . . .

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Syrophoenician (Mk. 7:26)

This woman is described as a . . .

Gentile (Mk. 7:26)

Syrophoenician (Mk. 7:26)

Canaanite (Mt. 15:22)

## 2. unanswered prayer

## 2. unanswered **prayer**

“And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying,



## 2. unanswered **prayer**

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David;  
my daughter is severely oppressed by a  
demon.’

## 2. unanswered **prayer**

“But he did not answer her a word. . . .”

(22-23a)

### 3. unkind **disciples**

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“And his disciples came and begged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she is crying out after us.’” (23b)

## 4. unfair labels

#### 4. unfair **labels**

“He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’

#### 4. unfair **labels**

“But she came and knelt before him, saying,  
‘Lord, help me.’

#### 4. unfair **labels**

“And he answered, ‘It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.’”

(24-26)



“What’s amazing about this account is that the woman doesn’t back down. She speaks truth to power.

“She confronts Jesus and says, ‘Well, you can think that about me, but even dogs deserve the crumbs from the table.’

“Her boldness and bravery to speak truth to power actually changes Jesus’s mind.

“Jesus repents of his racism and extends healing to this woman’s daughter.

“I love this story because it’s a reminder that Jesus is human. He had prejudices and bias.

“And when confronted with it, he was willing to do his work, and this woman was willing to stand up and speak truth.”

Reverend Robertson

“She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’

“Then Jesus answered her, ‘O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.”

Matthew 15:27-28



Why didn't she walk away?

\* She isn't trying to **squeeze** Jesus into **her** **story**; she **enters his**.

Signs of this:

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1. She embraces the **unfamiliar**.

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“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David” (22)

“In you all the families of the earth shall be  
blessed.”

Genesis 12:3b

“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

2 Samuel 7:16

“All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.” Psalm 22:27



“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Matthew 1:1

2. She won't **stop praying**.

2. She won't **stop praying**.

“They ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Luke 18:1b

3. She refuses to **stay offended**.

3. She won't **stay offended**.

\* You cannot enter the kingdom of Jesus  
without tripping!

“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,”

1 Corinthians 1:22-23

“God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

“so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,  
who became to us wisdom from God,  
righteousness and sanctification and  
redemption,

“so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who  
boasts, boast in the Lord.’”

1 Corinthians 1:28-31

“When Jesus calls you a dog, in other words, you don’t argue with him – you own your dog-ness.

“It’s those who find this admission beneath them, who think themselves above Christ and his gospel, actually, who will end up losing in the end.”

Jared Wilson

Are you currently seeking **mercy** or **justice**?

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written,  
‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’

“To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:19-21



What if you've grown up in a Christian  
family?

“Now may our God and Father himself, and  
our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,

“and may the Lord make you increase and  
abound in love for one another and for all, as  
we do for you,

“so that he may establish your hearts  
blameless in holiness before our God and  
Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with  
all his saints.”

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Is Christianity **exclusive** or **inclusive**?

“The biblical story is not only critical of other stories but also hospitable to other stories.

“On its way to the kingdom of God, it does not abolish all other stories, but brings them all into relationship to itself and its way to the kingdom.

“It becomes the story of all stories, taking with it into the kingdom all that can be positively related to the God of Israel and Jesus.



“The presence of so many little stories within the biblical metanarrative, so many fragments and glimpses of other stories, within Scripture itself, is surely a sign and an earnest of that.

“The universal that is the kingdom of God is no dreary uniformity or oppressive denial of difference,

“but the milieu in which every particular reaches its true destiny in relation to the God who is the God of all because he is the God of Jesus.”

Richard Bauckham

“You must picture me alone in that room in  
Magdalen, night after night, feeling,  
whenever my mind lifted even for a second  
from my work,

“the steady, unrelenting approach of Him  
whom I so earnestly desired not to meet.  
That which I greatly feared had at last come  
upon me.

“In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.

“I did not then see what was now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms.

“The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet.



“But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape!

“The words ‘compelle intrare,’ compel them to come in, have been so abused by wicked men that we should shudder at them; but, properly understood, they plum the depth of the Divine mercy.

“The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation.”

C.S. Lewis