182 To Find (*Invenire*)

Christ is found in five places. First in the manger by the shepherds. Second with Mary by the three magi who well merited to be the kings of God because they offer the three gifts the gold of charity, the frankincense of devotion, and the myrrh of explanation. Third in the temple by his parents in the place of peace. Fourth by the Magdalen in the house of Symon.

But he is not found in a crowd of vices which is figured in Luke 19[:2-3]: “Where Zacchaeus could not see Christ for the crowd.”

Second, he is not found in temporal joy, Isai. 1[:13-14]: “I will not abide, your solemnities.” John [7:34]: “You shall seek me, and shall not find me.” Nor is it a marvel because in Ose. 5[:6] it is said, “With their flocks, and with their herds, they shall go to seek the Lord, because he is withdrawn from them.”

Third, he is not to be found among the kinsmen, that is, among works of carnality. Wherefore Bernard, because among my kinsmen I will find you who among yours you are not found because in joy I find Christ whom the mother sorrowing hardly found. Job 28[:13]: “Neither is it found in the land of them that live in delights.” Cant. 3[:1]: “In my bed I sought him whom my soul loves and found him not.” Nor is there a wonder because Christ fed among the lilies. Therefore among the unclean he is not to be found. Therefore, sinner get up from your bed of voluptuousness, go to the manger of asperity.

Sometimes I have sought the one whom my soul loves everywhere in Jerusalem. He would be found in the middle of the doctors not in the market place of the sellers. Therefore he is to be sought while it is day, while he is near, while we have time to seek. “And it came to pass, that, after three days, they found him,” Luke 2[:46]. Of which the first day is before the law, the second under the law, and the third under grace. Or the first day is contrition, the second is confession, and the third is satisfaction for sin.