

Treasure!

Part 1: "The King's Model!"

"Where your treasure is... that's where your heart will be also!" Matthew 6.21

Treasure! Not a series about money... It's a study regarding value... Recognizing it, pursuing the greatest of it... Our logo speaks volumes! In a sea of shiny, worn, common, cheap, everyday, throwaways... Is a "treasure" of great, superior, value! Pennies not worth the cost of minting! But the 1877CC Gold coin, old, a little tarnished and worn, is 5.65 million times more valuable! ***So it is with the kingdom of God!***

"The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field!" Matthew 13.44 "The kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great price!" Matthew 13.45

The kingdom of God far out weighs the value and common offerings of our man made kingdoms... And once we see it, value it and get it, our hearts will follow it, follow God, all the days of our lives!

Treasure! The stuff *dreams* are made of... *Plans* are made for... People will *risk* for... ...*move all obstacles* to get to it! ...*sacrifice everything* else for it! ...*continually seek* more of it! ...*alter behavior, even the course of life* to get it! ...*glory* in the discovery of it! ***And Jesus said, people will follow it!***

Treasure! "Where it is, whatever it is identified as, your heart will follow..." ***Different than "you will spend your treasure on the things your heart has affection for..."*** True, but not the same as our verse! ***"What you deem as your treasure, your heart will intently follow!"*** Value things, your heart will dwell there! Value people, your heart will be with them! Value God, His kingdom... Follow *Him!* ***And treasuring God is the only thing that will overarch all else... good, bad and indifferent!***

What... Would make a man leave his business behind to follow God? **Mt4.22** What would make someone step up thru their business to follow God? **A4.32, 19.19** What would make a man turn away from all his learning, letters, pedigree, and accomplishments? **Phil 3.7,8 A9.6** What would make another apply themselves to "lettering" in the faith and accomplishing new heights? **2T2.15** What makes anyone deny themselves, pick up a cross and follow Him? **Mt10.38**

The treasure-trove of the Savior, His love, and the model of life He left behind!

The Savior's love! Was the result of the love of God for the world! **J3.16** "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" **Rev 1.5** The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus! **R6.23** There is no remission of sin without blood! **Heb 9.22 Mt 26.28** It was the most gruesome death ever on the planet! **Is52.14ff** ***Though many have been crucified, only One carried the sins of the whole world!***

But the Cross was the lowest price Jesus paid for saving mankind... The Cross was all natural, fleshly, temporary and transitory! Everything He suffered in the flesh for the sake of God's kingdom was short-lived!

The Savior's love! What price did Jesus pay to come to earth to restore mankind? "And now, O Father, glorify Me with Your own self *with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*" **J17.5** "In the beginning was the Word, *with God, was God and all things were made by Him and in Him was life and His life was the light of men!*" **J1.1-4** "No man knows who the Son is *but the Father; and who the Father is but the Son,* and he to whom the Son will reveal him." **Lk10.21**

What price did Jesus pay to come to earth to restore mankind? His interactive connection with His Father! His spiritual association was broken to become Jesus, the Christ, Son of man! His nature,

character and function! His creative All-power, All-knowing, All-being... all broken! His radiance as the Son of the Godhead was dimmed as it was encased in human flesh! **Gal 4.4 Phil 2.6,7 The Commander was made a little lower than angels to suffer death! Heb 2.7,9**

Jesus had to alter His lifestyle, His behavior, and change His identity to be the Savior of mankind! But it was all temporary and transitory! Everything He suffered for the sake of God's kingdom was *short-lived!*

Asides... Has there ever been a more vivid example, a greater truth for... "In all things proving ourselves as the ministers of God, **2Cor 6.4** Enduring persecutions and tribulations, **2Th1.4** Hardness as a soldier, **2T2.3** Living for the sake of others; dying with Him to live with Him, suffering with Him to reign with Him, **2T2.10-12** Enduring chastening, **Heb12.7** And any grief for the sake of God **1P2.19**

Enduring, with patience and longsuffering our duty, sacrifice, service, and suffering for His name's sake? Making Him our treasure and "picking up our cross, daily, to follow Him?" **EVERYTHING WE "SUFFER" TO ALTER OUR LIFESTYLES, MODIFY OUR BEHAVIOR, PROVE OUR IDENTITY... IS TEMPORARY AND TRANSITIONAL!**

The Savior's model! "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which, when a man found it, he hid it and for joy went and sold all he had to buy that field!" **Mt 13.44**

'The King of Heaven is like a man who found a treasure in a field, who when He found it, for the joy set before Him went and sold-out everything He had to buy that field!'

The Savior's model! You were the treasure in the field... You were worth everything to Him... His heart has been following after you your whole life... You didn't find Him, He found you! And He paid your debt of sin so that you would be free to live with, and for, Him! He asks you to follow Him... **But it requires your heart: "Where your treasure is, your heart will follow..."**

Are you willing to give up what is common to have the extraordinary?