

Treasure!

Part 3: "Finding the Treasure for Ourselves!"

"Where *your* treasure is... that's where *your* heart will be also!" **Matthew 6.21** "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which when a man found it, *he* hid it, and in *his* joy went and sold all *he* had to buy the field!" **Matthew 13.44** "The kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant man seeking good pearls who when *he* found one of great price went and sold all *he* had and bought it!" **Matthew 13.45,46**

Treasure in a field... Pearl of great price... \$45,000 Hidden Treasure! \$250,000 Sunken Treasure! \$18 million "Buried Treasure!" \$77 million in Undersea Silver!

In each case, there are big smiles on the faces of the ones who found *their* treasures! I can be happy for them, but honestly... *I* haven't found one of these kind, so *I'm* not "rejoicing!"

And it's the same with the Kingdom of God... there are people happy for people who have found it... but who aren't *rejoicing!*

Series Notes... *The Kingdom of God is a treasure of great value to be found!* Hidden among the common offerings of this world... of infinitely greater value! ***The Kingdom includes "pieces," different forms, of treasure, you!*** Jesus paid the price of life in heaven and death on earth to buy the world because *YOU* were hidden in it! *And then asked if you would follow His example to hunt treasure for God? You have to do your diligence to find and dig out the treasure worth more to you than all else!* If you won't take the time to identify (ask), search for (seek), you will never have the treasure (find) for yourself! Have to search out and listen for the voice of God that directs you to the treasure of life! ***We can be happy for others who have found their treasure... but we can't know joy until we find it for ourselves!***

Three things will help us locate our treasure: *Reading* about Him... *Conversing* with Him... and *Obeying* Him!

Finding Our Treasure... *Everything begins with reading about Him!* That's how it works, how all this works! We read about Him first and then begin listening for His voice! Otherwise it's too easy to be deceived! When we read we must "see" Him, not just gather information about Him... We must go beneath the surface/treasure! And we must begin seeing Him in the Old Testament as well as the New!

Seeing God, our Treasure! *Must see how God responds to the first failure of man!* **Gen 2/3** He shows *mercy* to the first sinners! Pardon's His people's *death sentence*... His life plan for man was broken, but His love wasn't! And He goes to war with His real enemy! "Wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers..." **Eph 6.12ff**

Not just a Bible story: The Fall of Man! It's a character study: Introducing God! *THIS IS NOT A "COMMON" KING/DOM!*

Must see Him dealing with the first murderer and victims! Cain: punishment limited! Murder was punishable by death already... "I am driven out of the earth, from Your face I will be hid, I will be a fugitive and every one that finds me will try to kill me..." **G4.14** Heartbroken parents, Adam and Eve, revived with birth of "Seth!" Seth = Appointed substitute! **G4.25** *Look beneath the murder mystery to see that He is the **GOD OF RESTORATION!***

See how he responds to the simple trust of Noah... “Build an ark... OK! Gather the animals... OK! Come inside... OK! Wait... OK!” *Noah did according to all the Lord had commanded!*” **G6-10 Their PRESERVATIONIST! Heb 11.7, G9.19 1Pet 3.20, 2Pet 2.5**

See how He deals with the rise of man’s pride, arrogance and sinfulness! G11 By keeping His promise to Noah that He would not destroy all flesh again! **GOD WHO KEEPS HIS WORD NO MATTER HOW MAN CHANGES HIS!**

See how He loves Abram, the “believer!” G12 Promise: “I will give you a place **12.1**, a people **v2**, abundant provision **v2**, prominence **v2**, make you a blessing **v2**, Protector **v3**, and give you a purpose **v3!**” GOD held to it, and confirmed it 6x despite several failures on Abram’s part! **G12-18** This is the one who became our “Father of Faith!” **Rom 4.1,5,11,17,18 GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL WHEN WE AREN’T!**

What about His response to Joseph, Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego? THE DELIVERER!

BENEATH THE PRINT OF BIBLE STORIES, WE MUST SEE HIM, HIS NATURE, CHARACTER, AND WHAT HE DOES!

See God in David’s songs! PRAISEWORTHY FOR FAITHFULNESS in life and the shadow of death... In great plenty and in great need... In times of peace and times of battle... In times of obedience and times of sin!

See God in Solomon’s proverbs! “Wisdom that is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be asked for and acquired, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy!” **James 3.17 Pr 4.7 WILLING TO COMMUNICATE (SHARE)!**

So important to see God in the OT Battles... To understand His orders to Israel to kill ALL their enemies (idolatry)... To understand that “everything that happened to them was for an example to us... the ones upon whom the end of the times has come...” **1Cor 10.6-14** Look underneath the surface to see **GOD SETTING US UP FOR SUCCESS...** **v13** See Him who gave every “instrument of instruction” the offer of salvation! **1Pet 3.18-20 Mt12.40 John 11.25 Eph 4.8-10 GOD IS, IN ALL THINGS, ALWAYS JUST!**

See Him in Job’s sufferings! Probably the thing that has defeated more people than anything else! Accepting surface views of suffering... Accepting mistaken words without judging the nature of God! *Not the creator of suffering!* Job did it all to himself! **Job 3.25,26** God shielded him from earlier battles! **Job 1.10** *Not a doting enabler, but LOVING LIMITER!* **Job 1.12 2.6 ENDURING BENEFACTOR! Job38-42.12-17**

When you read... stop and listen for Him to speak, to fill in the blanks for you!

Until you have read about Him, you won’t have a frame of reference for the things He wants to say to you!

When you’ve read about Him, heard His voice, you’ll feel comfortable talking to Him!

And when you know Him, how good He is, how much He wants to share with you, you’ll do what He says...

And then you will become a treasure hunter and locator!