

Treasure!

Part 4: "Finding Our Treasure!"

"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 Finds! (pictures)

We all know that there are people who have found it... the treasure of the kingdom of God! We see them in the pages of the Bible... and we see them in the landscape of our lives... People living, and dying, with smiles on their faces, full of joy, single eyed, hearts following what they treasured! We are happy for them, but until we find it for ourselves, we aren't really "rejoicing!"

It's important... To not let others "fortunes" make us comparative, and sometimes, bitter... Why doesn't that happen for me? Why don't I have that kind of life? What's so special about them?

It's important... To not be frustrated, give up looking, and replace the hunt for treasure with other things! Mostly the case of our distractions! Finding the treasure of God keeps us from being distracted... for long!

It's important... The treasure of the kingdom of God is for EVERY BELIEVER to realize, personally, in its fullness! You have been given a full inheritance!

"As many as are led by the Spirit (not if...), they are the sons of God. You have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby you cry out, ABBA, FATHER! The Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God... and as children, HEIRS..." Rom 8.14-17 "If a son, then an heir of God thru Christ!" Gal 4.7

It's important... The treasure of the kingdom of God is for EVERY BELIEVER to find, buy into and sell out for!

"I will receive you and be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty! So, having all these promises let us cleanse ourselves from the contaminates of the flesh and spirit!" 2Cor 6.18-7.1

"What kind of love is this that we are called the sons of God? Everyone that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure! 1John 3.1-3 1Pet 1.15,16

"By divine power Jesus has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness thru the knowledge of Him that called us to glory and virtue, thru which are given to us very great and valued promises that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature..." 2Peter 1.3-4

"What things were gain to me I counted as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as dung that I might gain Him, be found in Him, without my own righteousness but wrapped in His, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings... I haven't attained it all yet, but I am following after it, to know why He apprehended me. I am about one thing, I forget the things behind, reach forward and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ! And let us, as many as are growing and maturing be minded the same way... and if... in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal even this to you! Nevertheless, whatever

level you have already attained, let us walk by the same rule and be mind-full of the same thing!
Follow with me and mark those who do! **Phil 3.7-17 4.9**

How did Paul do that? How did he shut everything else out to pursue God with a whole heart? And obviously, there were others... others to follow... to mark as treasure hunters and locators! The same way we do it, we see the living Christ who brings the reality of treasure alive!

"If I saw Jesus, if He revealed Himself to me, I could, I would, believe like that too!" It all starts with reading about Him... that's how all this works!

Finding Our Treasure... *Everything begins with reading about Him!* We put in the time to read about Him and one day you hear His voice! "Do you understand what you are reading?" –Philip, Acts 8.30 Must know enough about Him to not be deceived by voices speaking up for Him! We don't want to be deceived! We must go beneath the surface of the Bible stories to see God! (study) 2T2.15

Reading Beneath the Lines! "And Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book, *but these are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you might have life in His name!* John 20.30-31

This is where I take new believers! "This book was written that you might believe..." (26 others, but... not now) "Don't read it for words, read it for pictures of Him!"

Reading Beneath the Lines! *John is writing post resurrection! He has seen Jesus crucified, dead, buried... Now standing there in their midst!* If there has been any doubt that Jesus was who He said, if there was any mere *hope* heaven was for real, it's gone! ALL REAL! And that's the core issue of our fall back to distractions! Doubt. *Mere hope.* "IF" *Jesus has penetrated the veil of death...*** He stepped into our material world from the spiritual/eternal one! ***John was a sold out treasure hunter because he saw the treasure/kingdom!*****

Paul pens most of the New Testament!* He was alive while Jesus was on the move but had dismissed Him as the Way! **A22.4** He receives his revelation from the Risen Christ! **Gal 1.12 Eph 3.3 2Cor 12.1-4** He is conversing with *the Risen Lord!* ***He sells out because he has seen the king and the kingdom of God!**

"Greatest of Christians, profoundest of teachers, staunchest of friends, most intrepid of adventurers, most dauntless of sufferers, most winsome of saints – Paul, Soldier, Slave and Lover of Jesus!"

***These, and so many others, Gospel writers, Peter, James, Jude, Mary...* Were all eyewitnesses of His resurrected presence, testifying, "It's all true!"**

Have you read about Him? Do you believe Jesus was here? Do you believe He died on a Cross bearing the sins of the whole world? Do you believe the eyewitnesses that He came back from the dead?

Then you are living in the reality that heaven is for real, eternity exists... That this life, and the kingdoms of this world, their temptations and distractions are temporary... *And that there is a kingdom to be found and pursued of eminently greater value!*****