

Treasure! Part 5: "Conversing with God!"

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

Principle #1: Our heart follows what we treasure...

"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

Principle #2: Our treasure is hidden beneath the surface...

"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

Principle #3: When we "find" it, we will sell out all else to have it!

Stating the Obvious? *The "Sell-outs" like John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, Mary...* Were all eyewitnesses of His resurrected presence, testifying, "It's all true!" "He is who He says He is, Death has been defeated, Heaven is for real!" And they left behind all they knew and had, to follow after Jesus! There was nothing of value in this life greater than Him and His Kingdom! Nothing more valuable to them than to spend themselves for them both! **IS THAT ONE OF OUR VALUES?**

Asides... *It's possible that it's not!* And it could be because we *don't know* what following Him means/how it feels... Or it could be because we *are afraid* of what it means/how it feels!

"Seeking first the kingdom and all things will be added to you!" Mt 6.33 "Give you discernment and riches! **1K3.11ff** Receive hundredfold! **Mk10.28ff** Given the desires of your heart! **Ps 37.4** Never forsaken! **Ps 37.25** ***"Picking up a Cross daily!"*** **Lk9.23ff** "To know Him in the power of His resurrection!" **Ph3.7-10**

"Seeking first the kingdom and all things will be added to you!" Mt 6.33 "Picking up a Cross daily... **Lk 9.23ff** Fearful "promises" with clauses if you have any doubt about God's goodness toward us! **"How great is the goodness You have for those who reverence You!" Ps 31.19**

Asides... *God has no plans for us that are meant for harm, evil...* "I know the plans I have for you... plans for good... not for failure... plans to give you a future and a hope!" **Jeremiah 29.11** Our nature, bent from the beginning, hears, "God has plans for us..." And we immediately take a defensive position. It's a longstanding promise from God to us: "plans for good, not for failure... harm... evil, disaster, or calamity..."

Believe it or not... God is surely on our side!

Stating the Obvious? *"OK, sure, if I could see the Jesus, resurrected, then I would sell out too!"* "Seeing Him" walk in from the eternal realm would remove all my doubts! And without doubts, without "if's," I would live my life differently! That's why we are going beneath the surface of the texts to find our treasure! We need to see we are reading eyewitness testimony of Him *post-resurrection!* And once we begin hearing Him ourselves, *it changes everything!*

John 4.39-42 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Jesus because of the words of the woman who testified, *"He told me all that I ever did."* So when they had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. *And many more believed because of His own word.* Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Text notes... *Our faith begins on the testimony of others!* Written or oral! Ancient or contemporary! ***Our faith is verified by our experience!*** "Hearts strangely warmed!" Salvation catalyzing transformation! ***But we are offered much more!*** Hearing Him... "Seeing" Him... *ourselves!* They believed because of her testimony! Then *really believed* when they heard Him! "THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!"

Their purity of pursuit, the impression of His presence, the sound of His voice, were all they needed for profound personal results! And that same experience is available to any and all of us today... we are the same "church!"

What's it all about? *Conversation...* Step Two... for prosperous life and effective ministry! Post resurrection Jesus set the world on fire for those guys and gals following Him! They lived and died spending themselves for their treasure... And only the saints in heaven know just how great and smart their lives were! ***And once you begin hearing from Him... Not only in reading, prayer or prophecy... But in daily living, directions, wisdom for decisions, words to share w/others... Light up too!***

Conversation! Conversing with God! Words of wisdom from above for the questions of our lives and times... "Wisdom from above that is first, pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, without hypocrisy, and this fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace!" **James 3.17,18**

We can continue to speak as mere men and engage endless arguments... **1Tim 1.4, 4.7 2Tim2.23 James 3.16** Or we can speak, *laleo: converse, as oracles, mouthpieces*, of God! **1P4.11 Mt 10.27,28**

What's it all about? *What does that look like to you?* Eyes rolled back...? Overtaking voice...? Only the devil does that... God uses simple men, under inspiration and aspiration to speak to the world! "Sanctify the Lord in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you for the reason of the hope that is in you..." **1Pet3.15** "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, this is the way you should answer every man..." **Col 3.6** "When they lead you in, and deliver you up to give account, don't be anxious or try to premeditate what you will say... just speak what will be given to you in that moment for it is not you that answers, but the Holy Spirit." **Mk13.11 Mt 10.19,20**

Sometimes it comes by shared knowledge of God! "Received" **Gal 1.12**

Sometimes it's the Holy Spirit teaching reminding, guiding and moving you into necessary things! **J14.26 16.13 2Pet 1.21**

Sometimes it's just God unlocking the most wonderful "knowing" **Is 28.23-29**

What the world needs now is... you, read-in, ear-full, lit up, intimately engaged and sold out for God!

What the world needs now is... you, "cleared" to speak for God, bringing clarity to the world stage!

What the world needs now is you... treasure-hunting the kingdom of God!