

Treasure!

Part 6: "The Conversational Connection!"

"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!

Sometimes, when you state the obvious it becomes obvious that what you thought was so obvious, wasn't!

Stating the Obvious? "OK, sure, if I could see the Jesus, resurrected, then I would sell out too!" The resurrected Jesus is the only reason we have a bible and people who have been transformed by it! We are all living in the period spawned by the visit of the resurrected Jesus! If we have seen Him at any time in the word, in our lives, it is HIM... Who proves the reality of heaven! The one who removes doubt! **So, we are all sold out! Or are we?**

Asides... "Selling out" doesn't mean disposing of earthly goods/imposing poverty... In both parables, "wealth" was increased! It's letting go of the lesser for greater! There are people who walk away... **(Paul)** And others who just let go and let God use them where and as they are! **(cp RYR)** Operating faith/diligent obedience! God needs people He can trust... Pick up a cross! **Mt 16.24-27** Put everything in its proper place! **Lk14.26** And needs people who can see/value!

The early Jews asked for a "sign" before they would believe and sell out to Him!

Matthew 12.38-40 "By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned! Then certain scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, *Master, we would like to see a sign from You.* He answered and said, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there will no sign be given to it but *the sign of the prophet Jonas. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*"

Matthew 16.1-4 "The Pharisees and Sadducees came tempting Him, desiring that He would show them a sign from heaven. He said, When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather for the sky is red. And in the morning, today will be foul weather for the sky is red. Oh you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky but can't discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and no sign will be given but *the sign of the prophet Jonas.*"

No sign other than My resurrection will be given, or necessary, for you to believe!

We who have believed in Jesus from the eyewitness testimony from the Bible of His resurrection... Are living in the aftermath of the most persuasive proof of who He was, and is, and we are blessed! Blessed... But not all sold out!

Proof, We're Not Sold... Lifeway Research: 77% of American Believers say you must "contribute" to your salvation! **Cp Eph2.8,9 R3.20-28** 64% evangelicals believe everyone goes to heaven in the end! **Cp J14.6 Mt13.49** 65% said most people are good by nature, 62% strongly disagree that sin deserves punishment, 57% think it's fair for God to show anger against sin. **Cp Rom 3.10-23 Is 64.6** 48% of evangelicals say God

accepts the worship of all religions! **Cp John 4.23** 52% believe that God made Jesus, "first and greatest being!" **Cp John 1.1-5 3.16** 56% believe the Holy Spirit is a force, not a person. 28% believe He is a divine being but not equal to God or Jesus! **Cp Mt 3.16, John 14.16,26 16.7** 51% said the Bible was written to be interpreted as each person chooses (citing behaviors now accepted/cancel the "rules!") **Cp 2Tim3.16,17 Mt 5.17** 91% evangelicals, 40% of non-evangelicals, say sex outside of marriage (adultery, fornication) is sin! **Cp Mt 5.27ff** 87% of evangelicals, 41% of non, 49% of Americans agree that abortion is a sin! **Cp Ex 21.22-25** 32% of evangelicals, 40% of non, say gender identify is a matter of choice. **Cp Gen 1.27 2.7 (squeezed), 22 (crafted)** 37% American evangelicals agreed that God always rewards true faith with material blessings! **Cp 1Tim6.5-6ff Ph4.11 Heb13.5 3John 1.2** 28% under \$25k/20% over \$100k

True faith, isn't concerned! And the man of Faith, didn't know!

"If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matt 6.23

Many believers have not found their treasure... the one that lights up the world around them! "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things!" **Matt 12.35** This is why it's so important to draw near to God in conversational lifestyles!

Want Proof? These are the questions the world around us is asking... "Racism, homosexuality, sexism, ageism, money, parenting, marriage, singleness etc. *We know what the Bible says (knowledge) but how do we handle these things in the home, work place, community, with friends (wisdom)?*" "How do I live peaceably and above the issues that come from social media? Too many non-issues becoming issues that cause strife and division." (info v. app) "The gorilla nonsense!"

"The disconnect between stated values and lifestyle of Christians, *and if the pastor is living on mission and modeling it.*" "God knows my heart therefore what I do doesn't matter. What's true for you may not be true for me. Absolute truth? Is there a such thing as a homosexual Christian?" "How to actually love and forgive those who still hurt us continually..."

"The disconnect between God loving us and His people who don't..." "Aloneness" "What about shame, guilt, unforgiveness and condemnation?" "What about the growing number of teen suicides?" (doubled in past 15 years) "I would like someone to address the issues. I would, but I fear I would be wasting my time; it would fall on deaf ears!"

"In the "tolerant" world we now live in, Christians are seen as polarizing or unaccepting of others' beliefs if we unashamedly proclaim that Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life, the only One by which we can be saved... do we adapt to our PC culture as our way of presenting the Truth, or do we stick the traditional "Roman Road" approach, believing that the Holy Spirit supersedes the risk of offending anybody?"

So important... *To have a conversational connection with God to ask, "How would You have me answer your people?"*

"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 speak as men and engage endless arguments! **1T1.4, 4.7 2T2.23** Or we can speak as oracles, of God! **1P4.11 Mt 10.27,28**

So important... Because He has answers... Pure, free of hypocrisy, without partiality for the impure/"different!" Openness and forgiveness for the condemned and unforgiving! Words of peace for the angry and fearful! A pathway of mercy (*kindness, not compromise*) for the sin-full (unsaved) and sinner (fallen)! Wisdom for personal evaluation!

He has answers for them and a will for us to pour out of the good treasure that our hearts are following!