

Treasure!

Part 7: "The Treasure We Hunt For!"

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

In a series of "values..." looking for the treasure that outshines every other offering!

If our hearts are where our treasure is and our hearts have affection for many "penny" treasures, we are fragmented!

Asides... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized... they studied, ate and prayed together. They revered God and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. All that believed were together, held their things as common, sold their excess goods and gave to meet needs. With one heart, they met daily in the temple, and they ate, breaking bread from house to house with gladness and *singleness of heart...* **Acts 2.41-46**

They found their treasure and it made them hungry for more, prioritized, benevolent, united, glad and singlehearted!

"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

There is a singleness of heart and a simplicity of life that comes once you find your treasure!

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

Three Things... *Reading about Him!* It all begins there and nothing gets started until you get serious to dig! **2Tim2.15** You must have context to understand God! The Bible reveals His character, nature and actions! We see how He deals with enemies, sinners, sons and daughters! How He responds to sin and faith, rebellion and repentance... To hypocrisy and humility, denial and suffering for His name's sake!

When we say, "we don't know" we say we haven't read...

Asides... It's possible to read the Bible and still not know God! We all begin reading for information... But there's always a fork in the road... Gathering information! Intellect... Reading to be informed! Inspiration... "I know what the Bible says about the matter but how do I handle it?" We read to profile God! Know Him! To see Him moving... to see what He's after... to follow where He's going!

So, we start reading and one day He shows up with questions! **Acts 8.30**

Three Things... *Conversing with Him!* Not just "praying to," "talking at" Him (landscape level Christianity)! Conversing w/Him throughout daily life; decisions, sharing thoughts, words to share with others! The "wisdom from above..." **Jam 4.17**

Faith that begins with others words, changes when we hear Him ourselves! We want to talk to Him ourselves and speak for Him to others until they hear!

Hearing from Him... "Adam, you can eat from every tree except that one... "Eve, what have you done?" "Cain, where is Abel?" "Noah, build a boat..." "Abram, get up and follow Me..." "Isaac, don't go down to Egypt..." "Jacob, it's time to go home..." "Joseph, here's the interpretation..." "Moses, come on up..." "Prophets, take a letter..." "Joseph, Mary's OK!" "Mary, this is going to be wild!" "Peter, Andrew, James

and John, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men!" "Peter feed My sheep!" "Saul, Saul, coming up against Me isn't going to go well for you!" "Ananias, go help Saul!" "Barnabas, help Ananias with Paul!" "No, Paul, not going to Asia right now!" ***This goes on cover to cover!***

We want a conversational connection that works... Because "I don't know" is not the answer from people who claim to have found God as their treasure... And a conversational connection is part of the "hidden treasure" of the kingdom!

Three Things...Obeying Him... Reading begins the treasure hunt! Conversing with Him authenticates it! Obedience is what brings it up to the surface for us to have and to hold! We could look at all the miracles... "Hold out your staff... Go and dip in the river... take the fishes and loaves... roll back the stone..." And see the benefits of obedience! But the benefits are not the same thing as the "treasure" we seek!

"If a man loves Me, he will keep My words, and My Father will love Him and we will come to him and make ourselves a resting place with him!" John 14.23

The love and relationship... The promise of close intimacy... The "You are mine and I am Yours" is the treasure we hunt for!

Text Notes...The reward of obedience to God is His, their, divine manifestation in our life! This is not only spiritual, but sensory, practical and (deeply) emotional! Love and union is very emotional! Can be overwhelming, but not weird! "Spiritual man discerning spiritual things" but physical man "in the house!" Stunning to surface Christianity! To these the Bible is just rules... They don't see the hand moving over the pages... heart authoring the words!

The result of their divine manifestation in our life is a "love-alignment!" (obedience) This is not the drudgery of keeping Daddy happy and family above reproach! This is a love interest in the family name, the royal identity, and family enterprise! Not "I do..." but "I am...!" And the love is not a mere sentimentality but a bond more real than this life and all its offerings!

The goal of our study has been to find the treasure more infinitely valuable than the penny offerings of the world!

To see the map for it in the Bible, to have a part in the hunt for it, to discover it beneath the surface...

To be numbered among those who have found it, sold out for it, and who have that certain smile because of it!

As faith for salvation often begins on the testimony of others, so sometimes the desire for the hunt!
Stories of sex, money and fame...

There is a kingdom treasure to find of such great value, that you will sell all you have to get it...