

Treasure!

Part 8: "Finale: Three Responses to Hunting Treasure!"

Closing our series of "values..." finding the treasure that captivates our hearts...

"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

It's the treasure we will sell out for, yet, increases our worth and fills our joy!

"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

The lesson is clear... when we find our treasure our hearts will follow after it!

Look at Jesus... "The devil took Jesus up on an exceedingly high mountain *and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory* (LK: "in a moment of time). And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall bow before the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. **Matt 4.8-11**

His heart was following hard after God, His will and Kingdom! And He was sold out, took no shortcuts, to get the treasure God wanted... YOU!

Look at Paul... If anyone had something to trust in, I did more! In Hebrew pedigree and religious leadership, top of the class. In zeal for God, the enemy of heretics. In keeping the code, blameless. But what things were gain for me, I counted loss for Christ! Without hesitation, I count them all loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord and count them as dung to win Him, to be found in Him, to be wrapped in the righteousness of faith... I want to know Him and the *power of his resurrection* and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death, *if by any means I might attain to the resurrection (exanastasis) from the state of the dead!* Not as though I have already attained it or was already complete *but I pursue it* to know why He apprehended me. I'm not all there but *I am about one thing*, dropping the past (kingdoms, distractions) and reaching forward to what's ahead! I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ! So, 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**

They were treasure hunters who lived prioritized, benevolent, glad, singlehearted, joyful, rewarded lives! And everyone of us can choose to become treasure hunters to reap those benefits!

Three responses! Bad: The Rich Young Ruler! "What good thing can I do to inherit eternal life? If you want to enter into life, *keep the commandments* ("if a man loves Me, he will keep My words")! The young man replied, All these things I have done from my childhood up. *What do I lack?* If you want to be complete go and sell all you have and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven *and come and follow Me!* And when the young man heard that, he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions!" **Mt 19.16-22**

Text Notes... The Kid had his penny kingdoms... But everything he had, had him! And mocked him with a gnawing hunger... "What am I *missing?*" "Ok. If you want to be complete. *Sell out (literally, for him) and come follow Me!*" "walked away sad, sorrowful, grieved." "penny kingdoms" blocked his view of the treasure/pearl right in front of him!" *Jesus offered him completion, eternal treasure, and a place on His team!* He couldn't follow Jesus because he wasn't looking beneath the surface! "Keeping Jesus words" was too much; he didn't see the alignment for treasure!

Three responses! Better: The Barn Builder! Take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "*The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.* And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' He said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said, 'Fool! Tonight your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, if he is not rich toward God.* So, therefore, stop being anxious about all the things the world seeks after... your Father knows what you need, but you seek first the kingdom of God and all this will be added to you... it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom... for where your treasure is – that's where your heart will also be!" **Luke 12.15-34**

Text Notes... The Barn Builder found the treasure and it was working for him! But he soon mistook it for his own... Thought it could be/should be stored up! "Fool, you have no idea regarding the term of your life... who will benefit from what you have (found)?" The issue of treasure is usage, not storage; involvement, not retirement! Foolish to discover the treasure and not utilize it to be rich toward God! Find it, sell out, find more, sell out again, "BE" not "stay" busy! **Lk12.37**

Luke 12.37-42 "Blessed are they whom the Lord finds awake and working when He comes! He will make them sit down and will come and serve them! You don't know when your time to meet is coming, so be ready, all the time! Who is the wise and faithful steward who the Lord will make ruler over all He has? The one He finds faithfully portioning out their "meat" in His household!"

Three responses! The Good Man! "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things." The issue here is dissemination of good treasure! "Only an evil (poneros: hurtful) person would have treasure (underground) and only bring out the evil (hurtful); vain, empty, temporary stuff!" Let your true treasure be like the last new restaurant you found! The latest website! Your newest friend! Extol the virtues of God rather than the features of your new car! Taste of your latest recipe! Perks of the new job!

Our treasure is God; and His kingdom... and our hearts should be following along! We want to be among those who have found Him, sold out for Him, and who have that certain smile because of Him!