

THE TREASURE OF THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13:44-46

I want to talk to you today about Treasure of the Kingdom

The year was 1983 towards the end of July - my wife and I were ending a missions trip to Europe. We had decided to add two weeks to the end of our journey so that we could visit with my relatives in Holland. I had met them all at least once about 9 years prior in Canada at a reunion. Now as a grown man newly married I was meeting my uncle in person for the second time that I could remember. I was incredibly nervous.

Adding to my angst was the awareness that my Father who was supposed to be there was in Germany with my other Aunt and uncle.....thanks Dad! Now we were meeting my Uncle that I had no recent Photos of and who did not speak any English. When I saw him I was stunned to see how much he looked like my Dad.

Now because my father was gone my Uncle played host for a couple days and he took us to the different places near my parents hometown of Beilen which is where my Uncle Lucas lived. On one of those outings he took us to a nature hike not far from Beilen. Here we walked among beautiful Pine trees and look at an interesting collection of Solar Displays - there were a series of Huge Radio Satellites and an Old set of railroad tracks.....none of it seemed to make much sense especially when you don't know how to read any of the signs and your hosts don't know how to translate. So we had to make the best of it and depend on my cousin to translate in the evenings for what we had done that day and what we would like to do the next day. It was a nice historic nature hike.....

13 years later October of 1996 I was in Holland again with my Father and my 3 brothers. We spent day after day just listening to our Dad tell us about these places we had only conjured up in our minds eye as we heard both he and my mom talk about their childhood. It was a Sunday afternoon and one of my older brothers asked my Dad to take us where he had taken our sisters a couple years prior - to the Nazi Concentration Camp - Westerbork. My Father did not want to go but finally acquiesced to our request.....we got out and began to walk into the memorial. My Father already in another world walked past the front desk.....did not even bother to find out if we needed to pay. One of my brothers went to the attendant who was attempting to get his attention and simply said he is one of the Survivors.....and she said 'sorry' please go ahead and go all of you. This was the camp we had heard about where my Dad spent 11 days...and was miraculously released.

Dad said virtually nothing as he walked quickly through.....the facts spoke loudly.....of the 104,000 Jews deported from Holland to the death camps like Auschwitz 102,000 came through Beilen Anne Frank and thousands of others. Just a few thousand survived.....and my Father was one of them.....later that camp became a military training base for the Royal Dutch Army as they sent thousands of young men to defend the Colonial settlement of Indonesia.....my Father and his brother were here again as they were sent out and as they returned.

- I have a photo album of Denise and I in 1984 laughing, smiling and walking a nature walk in 1983.....
- in 1996 as I walked outside of the memorial building and began to look at the grounds I was undone.....that Nature Walk.....(just begun to build the memorial the year after we were there.....most people wanted to forget it was ever there)...**that Nature walk was Westerbork...!**

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.
Col 1:27b JB Phillips

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In 1984 I was completely unaware of the significance that this place was in my story!

- The was and is a place of memorial in my Fathers life.....were his life was miraculously spared.....**as a Prisoner and later as a Soldier.**

I have looked at those first photos after my visit in 1996 and I look at them differently.....it was and is not just a Nature Walk to me...it is a Memorial to the Grace of God in my life. Were it not for the Grace of God displayed in that place....I would not be here.

I first walked the ground unaware and did not Treasure it as I do today..... my story is directly connect to that place!

We come to a place in Matthew 13 in Jesus Sermon by the Sea. **Jesus tells 2 parables that reveal a layered mystery.....**

On the surface it might appear that Jesus is instructing His friends about what it looks like to embrace and value the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven. What it means to really appreciate the Gospel. **Yet beloved to go there immediately int this parable for this kind of application is to miss what was really going on.**

We could look at this parable and talk about some of the laws of the Kingdom that Jesus seems to make clear in the text

Matthew 13:44-46 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

A Costly Pearl

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- **Kingdom is found by those who are looking!**
- **Kingdom is a Treasure**
- **Kingdom operates and functions in the Realm of Joy**
- **Kingdom requires total Surrender - all in**

Now truth is as we are going to see all of these are true!

- **And we can call each other to ‘learn’ and be challenged in our individual walk....but the truth is you would be treating the text like I treated that Nature walk with my ‘uncle’ and miss the heartbeat of the Parable and the heartbeat of the Story of the Gospel!**

Beloved Here is the reality - The story Jesus is telling is not 1st about our response to the Kingdom.....

He is telling His story....the Story of the God Head!

- **DO NOT MISS THIS....**

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Col 1:27b JB Phillips*

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The Man who found the Treasure hidden in the Field.....?

- **God the Father**
- **God the Son**
- **God the Holy Spirit.....**

Matthew 13:37 just a few verses earlier Jesus interprets this language and says....the one sowing in the Field is *'The Son of Man.....and the field is the world.....'*

Beloved the Man Jesus found a Treasure in the Field.....

- **"He came to seek and save that which was lost....."**

The One who purchased the Field for the Treasure? who sold everything for the Pearl of Great Price? Was and is Jesus....!

Dt 7:6, Exodus 19:5 God says this about His people...
"YOU are my special Treasure....."

Of all of the created order.....God says this of you and I - created in His image...we are His treasured possession.....

Eph 5:25.....*so He loved the Church and gave Himself for her...!*

Part of the mystery that is prophesied by the High Priest in John 11:47-53
.....He died for the nation....but in order that He might also gather together into One the children of God scattered abroad.....

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

**Beloved the Parable of the Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price....
IS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL**

- **He Surrendered it all to get you and I!**
- **Beloved you are His delight!**
- **In Joy He sold it all for you!**

Hebrews 12:2

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For the Joy set before Him He endured the Cross...He Choose you in Him before the foundation of the World....

- **Do you know how valued and treasured you are??**

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He gave it all to have you....to restore and redeem you into more than just a sinner forgive but a Son restored!

- We you understand the Field and the Treasure Now you can hear Jesus word....

This is the Nature of the Kingdom of Heaven beloved!

- The Treasure is something far far more than silver or gold.....

Now the invitation of the Parable to us....

- This is where the message has come to challenge our understanding of the Message of the Gospel...**it is a Treasure because it is a Person!**

Now stay with me on this what I am trying to say is that the Message of the Gospel is a Treasure that is More than Predominant message that the Church of America has held for 300 plus years....

- Predominant invitation of the Gospel over the past 300 years has been a message The predominantly has said the Gospel is an invitation **to make your life work....better....**

I recently heard John Piper in a message on this subject say we that the Church of America is waking from a **Delusion of Dominance and Prosperity.....**

- Where we have equated the predominant message of the Gospel into steps that make your life better.....
- Now this is what Recovery Programs all over the country have focused on.....

You are powerless and you need someone else.....now that is true isn't it....

- We do need be forgiven and to Forgive
- We do need to live life not for ourselves....
- We do need to avoid focusing on our selfish indulgences.....

Truth here that is difficult is that all of this makes some sense.....

- Things will go better when we forgive and are forgiven.....
- It will go better when we say no to bad choices....
- It will go better to care for others.....

This is the POINT I am trying to make here.....

- **The Treasure of the Gospel is HIM.....**
- **The Treasure of the Gospel is NOT about making my life better...but KNOWING the Greatest Treasure of all....Christ!**

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Colossians 2:2-4

*2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and **attaining to all the wealth [a]that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.***

Nothing Compares Beloved.....

May we not be comfort seeking, entertainment addicted, security craving, approval desirous Christians.....

But those who have said I want to know this man Jesus above any other Treasure!

The Kingdom is discovered by those who have in Joy found the Greatest Treasure of all.....
2 Corinthians 4:7-11

*7 **But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;** 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

Not out of Obligation - Duty or Fear.....

True Motivation of should be the Pleasure of Psalm 16:11 in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.....

“ God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him ”

Every Biblical invitation of the gospel is rooted in the Promise of the Lavish Treasure of Jesus....this is not a small jar of treasure but a mine.....a store house of treasure.....

- Can you make a decision for Christ without Joy.....the question is - should you?

This parable His Story and an invitation for it to become our story!

Don't miss it.....

“You are converted to Christ when Christ becomes for you a Treasure of Holy Joy”

When the Affections of your heart are moved by the revelation of His affections.....

When Christ becomes our Treasure.....when it becomes our Delight to Trust and Obey Him

When turning from all that belittles Him becomes our normal habit.....

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Isaiah....55:1-3

*“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.
Come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without cost.*

*“Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And delight yourself in abundance.*

*“Incline your ear and come to Me.
Listen, that you may live;
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
According to the faithful mercies shown to David.*

My only Hope in life and death is that I belong Body and soul to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

I am His and He is Mine!

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