

“How to Find Real Treasure”

Pentecost 10

1)

Matthew 13:44-52

2)

August 9, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Remember that time as a kid where you were walking down the street or in the grocery store. You look down on the ground – Hey look I found a dollar bill and it was just the greatest thing ever. And then you thought to yourself and your mind is running over and over and over again all the cool things that you could spend it on. There were 5 to 10 seconds that you had to imagine all those things – until mom or dad told you let’s go and return it. For a kid it’s a great thing. It’s like a treasure. It doesn’t matter whether it’s a penny, or a dollar bill, or more.

This morning, Jesus shares a few more parables with us to tell us what the kingdom of heaven is like. Specifically, how we want to value what truly is the most important thing in life. He tells us about the people who went out and found something valuable and then did everything they could to get it and to keep it. Today we want to ask ourselves **How To Find Real Treasure**.

If you look at Matthew chapter 13 and certainly as we heard last week as well several parables that Jesus told down and look at the end of our gospel lesson. Jesus talks and even just a little bit more about what will happen at the very end of the age. I know we talked about that last week but when we think about it – Jesus wants to impress on his hearers about an urgency any urgency with which he wants find real treasure. The last parable talks about the urgency – b/c Judgment Day is coming – and it’s like we heard about last week about the Wheat and the Weeds.

The first parable – Now think about the details of each of the parables. If someone who goes out into a field and stumbles upon or finds hidden treasure – in those days it probably would have been a worker who was out there in a field and a common person and was out there and found this treasure. They didn’t have banks. It’s not as if someone would have kept their money underneath the mattress although they might have in their house. When they saw the foreign

army or those who came to loot the place they probably would have taken whatever it was that was very valuable to them and they would've went and hid and it in a field. And as many times and often what happened that person then would die by those people who would go out and loot. No one would know there's a treasure hidden in the field or come across it until this worker finds that treasure hidden in a field.

The second parable – Somewhat similar in that there was a merchant looking for pearls. But he found the finest, the most rare, the most special pearl and then much like the first did everything he could to secure it.

What is Jesus teaching us when we think about how to find real treasure? When you think about each of those parables what Jesus is teaching us is about real treasure of the gospel – knowing that all our sins are forgiven.

Think about it. How much treasure do we go searching after? What do we treat as the most valuable in our lives? When we sit there perhaps were lounging around on a lazy Saturday not having to work or sitting in our camp chair or and lounge chair and we're just dreaming about things. Where does your mind run to? Perhaps another way that we can think about it when we wake up in a sweat because we've had a nightmare about something – Maybe something was lost and we don't know what we do without it. Whatever we think about isn't that at times where we find our heart really is? To the Pharisees who were there and in his hearing – it's not all about outward motion but it's truly what's in your heart. Just wanted to point out to them wants to have that true spiritual treasure of faith in Jesus as your Savior's the most prized and precious possession.

Don't we, like people throughout all of time find ourselves running after all the wrong things? Don't we find ourselves doting upon our children or grandchildren? Perhaps we're dreaming of our next vacation. When we think about where our minds might wander or what we find ourselves placing all of our time and energy and effort in we have a spiritual connection in our heart to those things rather than in the true spiritual treasure and Jesus wants us to find.

What makes that spiritual treasure on Jesus different then all in of everything that you could ever imagine all the world?

How much is a picture our second and perhaps I could get you to go with me to the ocean or maybe like Michigan and imagine that I promised you that you could put all of your hopes and dreams on the third wave that comes in. What happens as the wave comes in? As soon as it comes in it will go right back out. We think about earthly wealth, we think about earthly relationships; we think about work or a retirement or vacation or whatever it might be. Don't those things look much like that wave it's here today and gone tomorrow. That's a second point that we get to is part of why Jesus is teaching us here today when he tells us the urgency that there is to find it, and then do everything you can to secure it.

What did the worker do? He took everything he had all of those things that he daydreamed about all of those things that he had nightmares about any went and sold at all so that he could have that treasure. Looking for fine pearls had much the same thing. That true spiritual treasure meant to them so they sold everything that they had so that they could keep that thing. The man who sold everything he had to go and buy the field didn't want someone to come back after time and claim ownership and the treasure that was buried. So he did everything he had to secure the field to claim that treasure has his very own.

What did God treasure? He treasures his one and only son. And he treasures you and me – so much so that he would sacrifice and send his one and only son Jesus to die to take away our every sin. When you think about treasure God gave up his very son for you and for me. Jesus gave up the joys of heaven willingly for you and for me. Jesus suffered when he hung there on the cross he was there to pay for our wondering desires in our fleeting thoughts or over better here today and gone tomorrow I can put everything in every ounce of our energy emotionally and spiritually into things on this earth but in the end – what would that leave us with? Jesus encourages us to find real treasure that lasts.

Jesus tells us you don't have to go any farther to find that true joy and spiritual happiness – knowing that all of your sins are forgiven. Not b/c you went and bought the field, but b/c God gave it to you freely out of his grace. God sent his one and only son Jesus to die in take away all your sins. When you confess your sins to God and

you think of those special people that God has placed in your life and they have the opportunity to say I forgive you. When you come to church and right after we confess our sins, the pastor says I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It's as sure and certain as God saying – I forgive you. Because Jesus died in your place. Three days later rose from the grave so you know so that you didn't have to worry about where you would spend all of your time for the rest of eternity.

Like treasure hidden in a field. Like the merchant who found the finest pearl. Like the kid who finds money on the ground. The extreme joy and happiness we receive when we hear that Jesus loves us and forgives us all our sins. Who do you know who needs to find this real treasure? This isn't something that God wants us to keep to ourselves. He wants us to share it with everyone we meet. The same joy and happiness you have in your forgiveness and happiness of eternal life – go and share it with the world.

Let's pray – Dear Jesus, you freely gave of yourself that I might be rich and have real treasure. Give me the zeal and urgency to share my unprecedented wealth with others. In his name we pray. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)