I. FIRST, THE TREASURE HUNT FOR GOD’S KINGDOM BEGINS BY DEFINING WHAT IT IS.

A. Specifically, it refers to God’s rule or reign.
   1. The word “Kingdom” comes from two other words: “King” and “Domain”.
   2. “Domain” is the territory over which a king rules.
   3. The Kingdom of God, however, is not a geographical place but a person’s heart.
   4. The phrase “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven” are synonymous.

B. There are three senses in which we can speak about the Kingdom of God.
   1. In one sense it is imminent as Jesus said—Matt. 4:17.
   2. In another sense, the kingdom is yet to be realized.
   3. In still a third sense, the kingdom of God is eschatological becoming only completely realized at some point in the future.
   4. Jesus probably didn’t intend for us to pray that God’s Kingdom comes in an eschatological sense because God has already set that time and we can’t change it with our prayers—Acts 1:7.

II. SECOND, WHY IS THE TREASURE HUNT FOR GOD’S KINGDOM SO IMPORTANT?

A. It was important in the O.T.—Obadiah 1:21 and Zechariah 14:9a.

B. It was important to John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus—Matt. 3:1-2.

C. It was important to Jesus—Matt. 5:3.

D. It was important to Paul—Acts 19:8.

E. It was important to John—Rev. 11:5.

III. THIRD, WHAT DOES THE TREASURE HUNT FOR GOD’S KINGDOM REQUIRE FROM US?

A. First, it requires our personal commitment.
   1. Before we can pray “Your Kingdom Come” we must first pray “My Kingdom Go”.
   2. This means we must relinquish our rule over ourselves before we can accept God’s rule over us.
B. Second, it requires a cost.

1. Jesus told a parable comparing the Kingdom of God with a costly pearl—Matt. 13:45.

2. The man sold everything he had so he could buy the pearl.