

Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44-46

Introduction:

1. Series Intro:
 - Parables: A earthly story with a Heavenly meaning. Each story contains Biblical truth. Jesus taught using over 40 parables. He was a master at taking material things in this world to teach us about God and about the kingdom of God.
 - The goal of this series is to teach us about God and the kingdom of God.
2. **Matthew 13:44-46** commentary
3. Big Idea: **The treasure we find in Jesus is more valuable than anything you walk away from.**

I. The Gospel is more valuable than anything earth has to offer

- **The Gospel cannot be bought** – There is not enough money or good deeds that we could ever do that could purchase Him. “There is none righteous, no not one. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” “our righteousness are as filthy rags.” “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. The point in all of these passages is that Salvation can never be purchased or bought.
- **The Gospel is a free gift** – **Ephesians 2:8-9** - “For by grace are ye saved through faith. It is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.” Listen, if we had to do

something to get this or earn this, then it would be about us. That is the point that Paul is making. This is a free gift. **Illus:** Picture 1 – popcorn Picture 2 – snowball Popcorn was a gift, but Snowball was earned. When you talk to Lynlee, she would tell you that she had to work for Snowball. She boasts in that work because it was up to her to get snowball. Popcorn was up to us to give it to her. Do you see that in the Gospel? The Gospel was based on what He has done for you, and it is freely offered to all people. All we must do is accept the free gift. He gave up everything so that you could gain everything!

II. The Gospel is worth giving up everything

1. Illus: The rich young ruler
2. **Matthew 16:24-26** - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
3. **What is holding you back?**
4. Jesus was not into “follow me and live your best life now” type of invitations. His invitations were “follow me. I am enough for you. I am all that you need.”

5. **Illus:** Kids wanting something until they have to spend their own money – It is not worth it to them.
6. Let me tell you this, following Jesus is worth giving up your job, giving up your comfort, leaving someone behind, or anything else that you consider valuable because what you gain far surpasses what you are giving up.

III. The Gospel rewards you with lasting joy

1. **Matthew 13:44** - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
2. The treasure of the gospel is like finding a treasure that brought about so much joy that you quickly left everything in order to possess it?
3. How does that joy reveal itself in my life?
 - **The joy of the Lord is our strength** – When you are weak, He can make you strong. You can have joy even in the worst of moments, because of the Gospel at work in your life.
 - **The joy of the Lord brings contentment** – Some of the happiest people are those who have contentment. They realize that in Jesus, they have all that they need which means they can be joyful no matter what they have or don't have.

- **The joy of the Lord provides hope** – How many of you are thankful for hope? Let me tell you this, joy brings hope. I have joy that we are going to be reunited with loved ones one day.
4. The man had joy knowing what he was losing because what he was gaining was infinitely more. So much more that it was worth giving up everything.

Conclusion:

1. The treasure that you gain in God is more valuable than anything that we walk away from.
2. **Illus:** William Borden Story (**show pic**) :
 - Heir of Borden milk company. This was a massive company back then, and still is pretty big today.
 - He graduated from Yale in 1909 and he had everything offered to him to set up his future. Inheriting this massive company would give him job security and income for life.
 - He got saved in college, and when he got saved, he wrote no rivals on the flyleaf of his Bible.
 - When he graduated from college, he felt called to take the Gospel to the Muslims instead of taking over the family business. His family laughed at him and called him crazy. In the flyleaf of his Bible, he wrote, "no refusals."

- So, he went to Egypt, but after only four months of zealous ministry, he contracted spinal meningitis and died at the age of 25.
- Someone asked him on board the ship right before he died what he thought about his decisions, and he said simply, “no regrets.”
- On his tombstone in Cairo – Apart from faith in Christ, there is no explanation for such a life.”

Conclusion:

1. When you understand the value of who Christ is, that kind of life makes sense
2. Jesus is more valuable than anything you could give up because what you gain in Him is far better than what you give up trusting in Him.