

January 20th – Losing All to Gain Everything

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

(Matt. 13:44)

Jim Elliot was born in Portland, Oregon on October 8th, 1927. Later in life he attended Wheaton College and prepared for a life of missionary service. In the early 50s, Elliot began the process of relocating to Ecuador where he would dedicate his life to reaching the Quechua people, including the “Auca” (savages). On Jan. 8th, 1956, Elliot and four of his companions were killed by a group of Huaoroni warriors as they were attempting to build relationship and reach the natives for Christ.

Seven years before his death, Elliot wrote these words in his personal journal – “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Elliot’s words remind us of the words of Jesus from about 2,000 years earlier. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, and clearly not just any treasure. The extravagance of the treasure is so high that a man would rebury the treasure in a field, then sell everything he has to go and buy the buried treasure.

Jim Elliot was a man who exemplified these words of Christ. He was willing to give up everything he had – even life itself – for the opportunity to gain heaven and lead others to Christ. I wonder, what would you be willing to lose in order to gain heaven? Would you be willing to lose your job? Your friends? Your money? Your life? “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). Jesus is worth much more than anything you will ever lose for His sake.