

Finding Treasure In God's Word

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever been interested in treasure hunting? (Ex: using a metal detector, or looking for old towns, or wanting to find precious gemstones, or pan for gold, etc.)

Q: What is the "allure" of treasure hunting?

Q: Have you ever found something that was valuable that you weren't expecting? Share what happened!

Table Time....

READ: Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Q: "WHAT" is this parable actually about?

Q: Why would this guy "cover up" the treasure? What's that all about?

Q: What is the emotion he feels?

Q: Does he think that "selling all he has" is a burden or isn't worth it? Why?

Q: What does this teach you about this guy?

READ: Matthew 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Q: How is the "merchant" like the man above? What do they have in common?

Q: What was this merchant's reaction to this "one pearl"?

Q: In both parables, they have the same reaction! What IS that reaction? And what does this tell us about the treasure they've found?

Q: Does this seem "radical" to you? OR does this make sense given the value of the treasure and what they've found?

Q: What do these little parables teach us about the "Kingdom of God"?

Q: What does it take for US to believe that the Kingdom is worth MORE than everything?

Q: Might there be the possibility that we sell "everything" but actually get MORE? How might THAT BE?

Big Group Debrief.....

READ: Matthew 19:16-22 "And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. "

Q: What was this young man's question?

Q: What does Jesus' answer "reveal"?

Q: According to verse 21, what was the "one thing"that was keeping him from "the Kingdom"?

READ: Matthew 19:23-30 "And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." ²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Q: What was Jesus' point in verses 23-24?

Q: Why is this hard for the disciples to understand? What does their lack of understanding teach us about the difference between the worldly view and the heavenly?

Q: What's important about verse 26?

Q: How is Peter's response in verse 27 similar to the young man's, yet different?

Q: What's Jesus' response?

Q: How is what He says "MORE" than what they "left" or "sold" or "gave up"?

Q: Was what they gave up worth what Jesus gave?

Q: How might this help you... "find the treasure"?

Q: In God's Word, where do you find the "treasure" of God's Kingdom?

Q: What do you need to "let go" of, or "sell" to find MORE of what God offers?