

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl

October 13, 2016

Matthew 13:44-46 NASB

44 The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and **FROM JOY OVER IT HE GOES AND SELLS ALL THAT HE HAS AND BUYS THAT FIELD.**

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

46 and **UPON FINDING ONE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE, HE WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT.**

This parable presents us with two challenging questions:

1. *What is our motive for following Jesus?*
2. *How precious is the nearness of His presence and the sound of His voice?*

Matthew 24:11-13 NASB

11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

12 **BECAUSE LAWLESSNESS IS INCREASED, MOST PEOPLE'S LOVE WILL GROW COLD.**

13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Revelation 2:1-5 NASB

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

4 **BUT I HAVE THIS AGAINST YOU, THAT YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE.**

5 **THEREFORE REMEMBER FROM WHERE YOU HAVE FALLEN, AND REPENT AND DO THE DEEDS YOU DID AT FIRST; OR ELSE I AM COMING TO YOU AND WILL REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND OUT OF ITS PLACE--UNLESS YOU REPENT.**

Wrong motives for following Jesus:

1. *Selfish ambition and promotion*
2. *Obligation and debt*
3. *Fear of judgment*
4. *Morality*
5. *Social injustice*

We follow Jesus because we love Jesus.

We have found in Jesus a love that satisfies every desire and meets every need. Nothing else, no one else, thrills me, saves me, empowers me, protects me, guides me and provides for me like Jesus does.

Because of the that love, we will follow Jesus whenever, wherever and however, no matter what the cost.

Jeremiah 2:1-13 NASB

1 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

2 "Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD,' **I REMEMBER CONCERNING YOU THE DEVOTION OF YOUR YOUTH, THE LOVE OF YOUR BETROTHALS, YOUR FOLLOWING AFTER ME IN THE WILDERNESS, THROUGH A LAND NOT SOWN.**

3 **"ISRAEL WAS HOLY TO THE LORD, THE FIRST OF HIS HARVEST. ALL WHO ATE OF IT BECAME GUILTY; EVIL CAME UPON THEM,"** declares the LORD."

4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus says the LORD, **"WHAT INJUSTICE DID YOUR FATHERS FIND IN ME, THAT THEY WENT FAR FROM ME AND WALKED AFTER EMPTINESS AND BECAME EMPTY?**

6 **"THEY DID NOT SAY, 'WHERE IS THE LORD WHO BROUGHT US UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, WHO LED US THROUGH THE WILDERNESS, THROUGH A LAND OF DESERTS AND OF PITS, THROUGH A LAND OF DROUGHT AND OF DEEP DARKNESS, THROUGH A LAND THAT NO ONE CROSSED AND WHERE NO MAN DWELT?'**

7 **"I BROUGHT YOU INTO THE FRUITFUL LAND TO EAT ITS FRUIT AND ITS GOOD THINGS. BUT YOU CAME AND DEFILED MY LAND, AND MY INHERITANCE YOU MADE AN ABOMINATION.**

8 **"THE PRIESTS DID NOT SAY, 'WHERE IS THE LORD?' AND THOSE WHO HANDLE THE LAW DID NOT KNOW ME; THE RULERS ALSO TRANSGRESSED AGAINST ME, AND THE PROPHETS PROPHESED BY BAAL AND WALKED AFTER THINGS THAT DID NOT PROFIT.**

9 **"THEREFORE I WILL YET CONTEND WITH YOU,"** DECLARES THE LORD, **"AND WITH YOUR SONS' SONS I WILL CONTEND.**

10 "For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see, and send to Kedar and observe closely and see if there has been such a thing as this!

11 **"HAS A NATION CHANGED GODS WHEN THEY WERE NOT GODS? BUT MY PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED THEIR GLORY FOR THAT WHICH DOES NOT PROFIT.**

12 **"BE APPALLED, O HEAVENS, AT THIS, AND SHUDDER, BE VERY DESOLATE,"** DECLARES THE LORD.

13 **"FOR MY PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED TWO EVILS: THEY HAVE FORSAKEN ME, THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS, TO HEW FOR THEMSELVES CISTERNS, BROKEN CISTERNS THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER.**

Psalm 63:1-8 NASB

1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

O God, You are my God; **I SHALL SEEK YOU EARNESTLY; MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR YOU, MY FLESH YEARNs FOR YOU, IN A DRY AND WEARY LAND WHERE THERE IS NO WATER.**

2 **THUS I HAVE SEEN YOU IN THE SANCTUARY, TO SEE YOUR POWER AND YOUR GLORY.**

3 Because **YOUR LOVINGKINDNESS IS BETTER THAN LIFE,** my lips will praise You.

4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 **MY SOUL IS SATISFIED AS WITH MARROW AND FATNESS,** and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

6 **WHEN I REMEMBER YOU ON MY BED, I MEDITATE ON YOU IN THE NIGHT WATCHES,**
7 **FOR YOU HAVE BEEN MY HELP, AND IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS I SING FOR JOY.**
8 **MY SOUL CLINGS TO YOU; YOUR RIGHT HAND UPHOLDS ME.**

Isaiah 26:8-9 NASB

8 **INDEED, WHILE FOLLOWING THE WAY OF YOUR JUDGMENTS, O LORD, WE HAVE WAITED FOR YOU EAGERLY; YOUR NAME, EVEN YOUR MEMORY, IS THE DESIRE OF OUR SOULS.**
9 **AT NIGHT MY SOUL LONGS FOR YOU, INDEED, MY SPIRIT WITHIN ME SEEKS YOU DILIGENTLY; FOR WHEN THE EARTH EXPERIENCES YOUR JUDGMENTS THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Song of Songs 5:2-6 ESV

2 [She] I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."
3 I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?
4 **MY BELOVED PUT HIS HAND TO THE LATCH, AND MY HEART WAS THRILLED WITHIN ME.**
5 I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt.
6 I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer.

1 John 5:3 NASB

3 **FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS; AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME.**

Matthew 4:18-22 NASB

18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.
19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
20 **IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.**
21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
22 **IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THE BOAT AND THEIR FATHER, AND FOLLOWED HIM.**

WHAT YOU GIVE TO BE WITH HIM IS A DIRECT MEASUREMENT OF HOW PRECIOUS HE IS TO YOU.

FOUR MEASUREMENTS OF YOUR LOVE FOR GOD:

1. **TIME**

Psalm 55:17

17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray...

2. MONEY

Proverbs 3:9-10 NASB

9 Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

3. MIND

Psalms 1:2 NASB

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

4. ENERGY

Deuteronomy 6:5 NASB

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might (*force, strength, exceedingly much*).

5. REPUTATION & STATUS

Matthew 10:32-34 NASB

32 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.