

Too Comfortable? Week 7

Sermon date 3/12/2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we are shifting gears from family to treasure. We will be unpacking two passages, Matthew 13:44-46 and Matthew 25:20-30. Last Sunday Pastor spoke about the Treasure Principle. God is challenging His people to think differently about treasure. The Goal of this week is twofold. One, to help our group members gain a new perspective on what treasure is in the Kingdom of God. Two, from Matthew 25, we want to unpack the idea that we all have something in our hands to work with. God has given us resources to use for His Kingdom.

MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you personally about throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) Did you do something different in your family because of last week's study, and if so, will you share it with your group?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 13:44-46

⁴⁴ "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!ⁱ

Jesus is helping us understand how the Kingdom of Heaven is not like what we may think it is. Jesus is painting a different picture about heaven for us. He is raising the stakes about what real treasure is.

5) What is treasure?

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines treasure as this:

1a (1): wealth (as money, jewels, or precious metals) stored up or hoarded 〈buried *treasure*〉

(2): wealth of any kind or in any form: riches

b: a store of money in reserve

2: something of great worth or value *also:* a person esteemed as rare or precious

3: a collection of precious thingsⁱⁱ

6) Why is treasure so valuable to people?

7) Sometimes people have different views about what the Kingdom of Heaven is. What are some of the images or things we think of when we think about the Kingdom of Heaven?

- Harps and puffy clouds.
- Doing nothing but worshiping the whole time.
- Everybody gets in.
- Saint Peter at the gate.
- There are lots of answers to this question, and many haven't spent much time even thinking about it.

8) What is Jesus teaching us about the value of heaven?

Mark Clark, the senior pastor of the City Church in Canada, says this, "Trying to use the Gospel as behavioral modification is a dead idea. The Gospel has to win the hearts of people." If a person is simply trying to change to be a good Christian but Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven don't possess their heart, they won't have lasting change. We change for the things we treasure. People will rearrange their lives for things they truly value.

9) What are some of the things stopping people's hearts from knowing and being captivated by the Kingdom of Heaven?

Below is a thought from Randy Alcorn on Heaven.

We won't miss our old lives.

Have you ever bought an economy ticket for a flight, but because of overbooking, been upgraded to first class? Did you regret the upgrade? Did you spend your time wondering, *What am I missing by not being in the back of the plane?* The upgrade from Earth to heaven will be vastly superior to that from economy to first class. If we would miss

something from our old lives, it would be available to us in heaven. Why? Because we will experience all God intends for us. He fashions us to want precisely what He will give us so what He gives us will be exactly what we want.^{vi}

10) How would your world be different if the Kingdom of God was your sole treasure?

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 25:14-25

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.

¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the

servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. ¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five

bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ ²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you

many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ ²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I

have earned two more.’ ²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.

Let’s celebrate together!’ ²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said,

‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is

your money back.’ⁱⁱ

The New American Commentary says this:

The three points of the passage thus approximate to the following: (1) “Like the master, God entrusts all people with a portion of his resources, expecting them to act as good stewards of it.

(2) Like the two good servants, God’s people will be commended and rewarded when they have faithfully discharged that commission. (3) Like the wicked servant, those who fail to use the gifts God has given them for His service will be punished by separation from God and all things good.”

“This final point seems appropriate both for those who are overtly hostile to God and his revelation and for those who profess commitment to him but show no evidence in their lives of the reality of their profession.”ⁱⁱⁱ

11) What does the master entrust to his servants before he goes away?

12) What are the master's expectations with giving different amounts to each servant?

The master gives based on the abilities of his servants. He expects them to take a risk and invest it somehow.

- 13) What are the treasures God has given each of us to work with?
- 14) What are some common reasons given by Christians for not investing their treasure?
- 15) What is within your hands?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

We have spent several weeks discussing the idea of values; this is in essence, our treasure. Last week we asked questions about what we are passionate about. This week in your Chair Time, review your values and ask yourself the following questions.

- 16) Do my values line up with the words of Jesus regarding the Kingdom of Heaven?
- 17) What small treasures of this earth am I willing to give up so I treasure the Kingdom of Heaven first?

Read Psalm 84 and think about the implications considering this week's study.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 13:44–46.

ⁱⁱ Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

ⁱⁱⁱ Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 374–375.

^{vi} Randy Alcon, 9 Facts about Heaven that Will Surprise you, <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/pastor-Questioning-heaven> accessed 3/8/17 8:30am.