

**Don't Treasure Treasure. Treasure the Treasure.**

- Today in Gospel, Jesus tells two parables that are very short & similar. **Vs. 44-46**. In both: man finds amazing treasure, recognizes incomparable value, does whatever can to secure treasure, so can be his own. In first, with treasure in field: sells everything, buys field. In second, with pearl great price: again, sells everything, buys pearl – because recognizes, appreciates value of the treasure.
- What love re these parables: we can relate; we know what means to appreciate, treasure something valuable. If into cars: app value of 1969 Pontiac GTO Judge; nice car. Wine: app how right vintage, grape variety, technique all combine, one of kind wine. Antiques: know how certain items have intrinsic, historical value. Music: applaud composers who layer these inst over these to produce musical masterpiece. Fine food: recognize diff between \$-menu burger McD and steak dinner from Ruth's Chris. We know what means to treasure something of great value; precious; stands out, rises above rest; can't buy in store or appraise to certain dollar value – true treasure.
- That's what these two parables are all about: treasuring a treasure. **Vs. 44**. What's treasure here? Or, **vs. 45-46**. What's pearl here? What's the treasure Jesus teaching us to treasure?
- Before answer that, let's be clear on what treasure is not. Our 1<sup>st</sup> lesson, 1 Tim, talks re treasure, but says **vs. 9**. So: the treasure is not treasure. IOW, be very careful not to treasure money, wealth, riches, earthly possessions. Why? **Vs. 10**. So even though we may appr value of classic cars, wine, antiques, music, fine food, whatever else we may enjoy – Scripture emphatically warns us not to treasure those treasures. This passage even calls those treasures a temptation, trap, that **“plunge”** (word picture so graphic – forcing someone underwater, holding until drowned) **“into ruin and destruction.”** Not only that: when people love money and treasure treasure, lose faith in Christ. Without Christ, you go to hell, no matter how much treasure you have.
- I think this message so imp for all us today, for 2 reasons: 1) we have so much, so wealthy; 2) in our consumer culture, if don't have something we want, it's easy to get it (Amazon.com, few clicks later, it's yours). Because so wealthy and can get things so easily, tempted to treasure treasure and not treasure the treasure. What? Tempted to treasure treasure (love money, possessions) instead of treasuring the treasure (that parables talking about).
- So now, what are parables talking about when say **vs. 44b, 46**? What's treasure, pearl? Treasure is gospel of forgiveness, grace through Jesus Christ! That's the treasure! Don't treasure treasure; treasure the treasure, this treasure, the gospel. Treasure fact: when we lost in sin/unbelief, hopelessly heading for hell, God Father enacted perfect plan to rescue us. Sent Son JC to be Savior of world, our Savior. Jesus left home in heaven; took on human flesh; became a human man; lived among us. As he lived here, never sinned; lived holy, righteous life, perfectly in line with God's will; not for his own credit, but so that he could credit us with that righteousness. So now, because of Jesus, God Father looks at us as if we had lived sinless life Jesus lived. And to pay price for all sins we did/do commit in our lives, Jesus willingly, lovingly, without complaint/hesitation, offered himself to suffering and death, even death on cross, and all the torture those hours of agony brought. Did that for us! Then with his almighty power, on Easter Sunday morning Jesus rose from the dead, burst from the tomb; opened for us the door from death to eternal life and promised us that after we die, someday we too will rise from dead, follow Jesus into heaven. And there in heaven we will live, with Savior, without sin/sadness, forever and ever, in perfect peace, eternal joy. And all of this ours, not by own works/merit, but solely by God's grace, through faith in Christ. That is gospel, pearl, our treasure!
- Do you treasure the treasure? Do you relinquish everything you have to secure field and own pearl, because treasure is that important to you? Or say, “Sure, nice pearl, but I have others, too. Yeah, my faith important to me; but have lot of interests; try to balance them all”?

- Today in Gospel, Jesus tells two parables that are very short & similar; message very simple: don't treasure treasure; treasure the treasure. Treasure the gospel. **Vs. 44a.** Don't let anything in your life become more imp than this treasure! Do whatever you can to secure this treasure as your very own. Don't be passive re gospel; be passionate re gospel – because you know your Savior was not passive re saving you, but passionate re saving you. To Jesus, you are his pearl, his treasure; he gave up everything to secure you as his own and to give you salvation. And now it's yours, full and free, no strings attached, no works required, no further payment necessary. You have the treasure. So don't treasure treasure; treasure the treasure.



### **Matthew 13:44-46**

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

### **1 Timothy 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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