

Speaker: Pastor Moses Khan  
Sermon: Losing with Joy  
Main Scripture: Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)

## Reading

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

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.

### The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

45 “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.

## Opening

Question: How many are working from home? How many of you don't miss commuting?

Story: Driving home from work, I needed to make a stop to pick something up. I'm driving and I arrive...I'm about to turn off the car and I realize...I'm at my house. And I'm like “wait, wasn't supposed to go somewhere else?”

I'm so used to taking that path to go home – that taking to go somewhere else – I somehow still ended up at home. So the next time that happened I had to remind myself that the direction I'm used to going (straight home) needs to change because I'm trying to go to a different place.

What does that have to do with us?

Our relationship with money will not change until we remind ourselves that WE are trying to get our heart to get to a different place when it comes to money then where it naturally wants to go. YOUR HEART HAS PLACES IT NATURALLY GOES and if we are not intentional about this then we will become just like the world in how we view and use money – and us following Jesus will make no impact on what our hearts want to follow. And in order to experience change in our life and we must change what our hearts WANT to follow. I'm here to tell you that cannot happen until you learn to embrace losing.

In fact the title of my message this morning is “losing with joy”.

## Message

We are concluding this series called money matters

Jesus said FOR where you treasure is there your heart will be also. Lay-up treasure in heaven not on earth. Why Jesus?? Because where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

So Jesus is trying to change where your heart naturally wants to go. Your heart naturally wants to prioritize (fixate, focus, attach itself to) the things on this earth and Jesus changes that by helping us see that true value is found in him and with him. That the world Jesus is created is greater than the world we currently experience. A world messed up by sin.

Paul said: The love of money (which is the heart that is attached to money) is the root of all kinds of evil. (1 Tim. 6:10)

Your heart isn't just after money it's after what you think money will give you – it's the thing behind the thing

Security, status, freedom, addicted to accumulating things and possessions and stuff

The only way to overcome the love of something is to love something else more. You know how you overcome eating junk food? – you love being healthy more than you love eating junk.

In order to give up the love of one thing, you must find a greater love for something else.

And so Jesus introduces these parables

### **The Hidden Treasure**

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.

Treasure was often hidden in the field because there wasn't formal banking. If a city or town was invaded by an army. The homeowner would hide treasure - if the homeowner survived – then they can keep their treasure and if the homeowner didn't survive the invasion then the treasure was often forgotten.

Now I've heard many people teach this parable and they begin to break it down. They get so deep and specific into it that it loses its meaning.

So, let me share their confusion with you because chances are you might be thinking this as well.

Wrong understanding: The man is Jesus, we are the treasure and he gives everything to possess us.

Wow! That sounds amazing. And though it's true Jesus gave up his life for us. He gave up his riches and became poor so that we might become spiritually rich. All that is true – it's just not truth that this text is trying to explain.

Why isn't that the correct understanding – a few reasons

1. What is the treasure? The treasure is the KINGDOM.
2. The man FOUND the treasure. Jesus did not find us he created us and predestined us to himself.

The kingdom of heaven

- The domain – the reign and rule of Christ – is like a treasure.
- The kingdom is in hidden form - one preacher said the treasure can't be the kingdom because the kingdom of God isn't hidden - really? Then why did it need to be announced

### **The pearl of great value**

45 "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.

In the parable of the pearl, the man doesn't stumble up it, he is out searching for it. He is apparently a wholesale pearl dealer on a trip looking for pearls for his business. When he found one of great value he sold all he had and bought it.

Both the parables end the same way. BOTH the men sell everything they have to obtain what they found. The point is not on buying a way into the kingdom but on recognizing its supreme value.

The emphasis is on the supreme worth of the treasure and the pearl; it is far more than any sacrifice one might make to acquire it. The point is no sacrifice is too great to live in God's will – in his kingdom – governed by his rule and reign

Religious understanding the kingdom coming:

The religious were bothered because for them there was one thing greater than the kingdom - the was that they were seen - so they deceived people, and did religious things in public so they could manipulate honor and respect from people

People wanted the messianic reign - the kingdom - not because they found it as valuable but because of what they would get from it. - the blessings they would get as Jews, if the messiah (a Jew) would rule the world and take up a physical throne.

So vacancy of a physical throne meant vacancy of my blessings. So they crucified a messiah who couldn't give them what they valued.

Not understanding that Jesus didn't come to give humanity what it wants but it needs. Jesus didn't come to meet your priorities; he came to flip them. He didn't come give you what you treasure but to change what you treasure.

Jesus is trying to get us to stop settling for things that won't last

## **Responding to the kingdom**

Examples

### Rich young ruler

Matthew 19:20-22

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.

What kept him from making the decision? What he treasures led his heart and his decision

Some of you are scared of what it will do. You know letting God in means change. It's not that you don't want God - you don't want change. So we settle for the temporary and sacrifice the eternal.

## CS Lewis - Screwtape letters

- “Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him.”
- The uncle demon and nephew demon - the nephew demon tells that he’s going to have these bombs fall on him. He said no. let him get older and let him get rich because then he will be attached to this world. Let his affections fall in all the wrong places - let his heart arrive to any extreme devotion as long as it isn’t devotion to the enemy (Jesus).
- What is he saying? Why destroy him when we can distract him. Distract him long enough and his devotion to what doesn’t matter will grow stronger and his devotion to what matters will get weaker.

When the rich young ruler decides to keep his possessions rather than following Jesus – he determined that the treasure he has is great than the treasure Jesus was offering him – he was so distracted by the temporary that he forgot that the reason he stopped Jesus had to do with the eternity – what must I do to have eternal life???

He thinks about all possessions and he gets distracted and all thoughts regarding eternity leave his mind.

- See we put so much emphasis on what the enemy put into our mind - but his best work is not putting things into our minds but keeping things out.
- Paul didn’t say “don’t think on these things” he said think on these things (Phil. 4:8)
- It’s not that you think on things that you shouldn’t - it’s that you don’t think on things that you should

Ask yourself why you don’t see Jesus and the Kingdom of God as a treasure

## Paul the Apostle

Phil 3:7-8

But whatever gain [what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world] I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth [everything has worth] of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

## **Conclusion**

Matthew 16:25

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Losing with joy requires us to look what we gained as more valuable than what we lost.

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

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.

He gives up all the treasures he currently has to attain the treasure he discovered.

The natural conclusion as the sermon progresses to the end is to look at the congregation and ask the question what do you have to give up?

What do you need to get rid of in your life? This is true; there are things, possessions, ideas, beliefs, relationships, behaviours, that are hindering our relationship with God. And we need to deal with those things. Let go of those things. Turn from those things.

But the progression in the text is a little different. Because before the man goes and sells everything, something happens.

What happens? HE DISCOVERS THE JOY OF IT

It's not about what you're losing it's about what you're gaining. He saw it as a good trade off. That's only way he is persuaded to lose everything. He embraced losing with Joy because of what he was gaining!

When we get to eternity, we will realize what we call sacrifice now, won't be then. Is it really a sacrifice if what you gain is greater than what you lost?

Every time you lose you can do it with joy because what you're gaining is so much more.

Discussion Questions:

1. Money matters. Do you have a story that you can share, where you didn't realize the value of money?
2. As followers of Jesus, should our view on, and use of money be different than the world? If no, why not? If yes, in what ways should it be different?
3. We all face hindrances in our relationship with God and struggle with treasuring the wrong things. What practical steps can you begin to take in order to deal with those hindrances to help move toward treasuring the things of the Kingdom more?
4. Losing with joy requires focusing on what we have gained, and what we will gain, in Christ. What are things do you feel you personally have gained since becoming a follower of Jesus?