

Response Guide: "The Story of the Hidden Treasure"

For week of 5/31/20

Scripture:

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44 "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. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Questions for Discussion:

1.) Both parts of this parable portray how the kingdom of God is of greater value than anything the merchant or the man possessed before. Even so, they were so excited about what they had gained that they counted it joy to lose all they had but gain the kingdom.

-What are some things in your life that you can't hold onto while pursuing Jesus and his kingdom with your whole heart? What does it look like to "sell everything" for you?

2.) Both parts of this parable start with a person who is searching intently for something of great rarity. Many people teach that the first step to following Christ is sacrifice. While sacrifice is a necessary part of the Christian journey (Matthew 16:24), the first step is actually pursuit. God desires that we seek him with all of our hearts.

-What does your pursuit of God look like in this season? Is your heart filled with wonder and hope, or do you feel disillusioned and unmotivated? What reconnects your heart to your "first love," and restores the joy in your pursuit of Jesus?

3.) Both of the characters in the parable requires boldness to pursue the kingdom with all they had. Pastor Bob said in his message that the secret of boldness is knowing what we are worth to God.

How do you believe your identity in Christ creates freedom and boldness in your life? What expectations and barriers does it free you from?

Prayer