

## THE BIG IDEA: A kingdom that is worth everything will cost everything and will be valued above everything.

### The Take-Off

What would you sell everything for?

What would be of such value that you would do anything - pay anything - to get it?

That list probably doesn't take long to come up with and it probably isn't very long.

When we start talking about value, the lists get shorter and everything takes on a new weightiness.

This morning, we're going to spend our time in one verse and in that verse, Jesus is going to add something to that list.

Let's read it (**Matt. 13:44**)

This is not a story about farming or about how to get rich or about why pirates search for buried treasure

This is a story about the worth or value of the Kingdom.

The most important character in the story is the treasure - the Kingdom.

But the story focuses on the action of one man who finds it, and that's what I want us to talk through.

**A kingdom that is worth everything will cost everything and will be valued above everything.**

The treasure's worth doesn't go up or down - it's always valuable.

The moving piece in this verse is the man and I want to point out how he responded to the kingdom.

What I want us to see is that there are 3 things that he valued that God is challenging each of us to value.

### 1. The treasure was always just below the surface

- a. A couple cultural realities from the day of our parable: burying treasure was pretty common but finding it wasn't. (One commentator actually said you might find it once in a 1000 lifetimes)
- b. I'm not sure about all that, but the point is that it wasn't like people were hitting the jackpot daily
- c. It was rare, but **the treasure was always just below the surface**
- d. While it may not have happened all the time, it could have happened at any time
- e. What I love about this man is that when he found it, it changed his day and his destiny
- f. Sometimes we take for granted the moments in which we live
- g. We assume that we can pass on this moment because there will be another one coming
- h. [Ill / Dan Marino in his 2nd season]
- i. We assume ease and therefore don't know how to respond to cost
- j. We cannot assume a move of God will come our way again
- k. We are in a move of God - treasure is being found all over our church - personal revival is becoming corporate revival
- l. The question is: will we value it or assume we can pass because it interrupts our routines?
- m. The takeaway here? **Value the moment.**

### 2. He bought a whole lot of dirt to get the treasure

- a. Did you ever struggle with a math problem? You swore it was right, double and triple checked it? Knew it was wrong but couldn't figure out why?
- b. That's how I always felt about something in this verse: why did he buy the field when all he wanted was the treasure?
- c. Do you see that? **He bought a whole lot of dirt to get the treasure** and it just didn't add up.
- d. Until... I learned something about the law in that day
- e. If a day laborer uncovered treasure and lifted it out of the ground, it became the property of the owner of the field
- f. He was careful to bury it again - "in his excitement, he hid it again"
- g. He then quit his job, sold all he had and bought the field so **he** would own the treasure
- h. Ownership is everything and it changes everything!
- i. [Ill / 203.11/mo for MY **1984 Honda Accord 2 door hatchback**]
- j. The kingdom of heaven is worth more than the cost of discipleship or sacrifice - it was worth the dirt!
- k. He sold ALL HE HAD to purchase what was worth far more than ALL HE HAD
- l. The takeaway here? **Value the investment.**

### 3. Be patient - then, be passionate

- a. Speaking of dirt, not only did he buy a lot of it, but he worked through a lot of it
- b. We don't know exactly how long he worked the dirt, but we can assume probably longer than he wanted to
- c. **2 Cor. 4:7** / we're the dirt with buried treasure!
- d. Think about this: the treasure would never have been found without a process that felt ordinary, hard, and often, fruitless.
- e. This man got up every day and went to the same field to work the same dirt, and the commitment to that process led to the destiny-changing discovery!
- f. Treasure hunters don't quit.
- g. There may be a whole lot of dirt to dig through in our city, in our church, in ourselves - but there is treasure just below the surface
- h. We'll find it if we keep digging
- i. **Be patient** as you seek the kingdom, and when you find it, be passionate!
- j. Will it be harder than we'd like? This man would have said YES!!!
- k. But the treasure is worth the work.
- l. Many want to stumble onto greatness without paying the price for greatness.
- m. Often in the church, the minute anything feels like work we hide behind the "I" word - legalism.
- n. But this man was patient in his work and passionate in his discovery.
- o. We need to be, as well.
- p. The takeaway? **Value the process.**

#### The Landing

We started by hearing Cody's testimony about how God has changed him over the last 3 years, and my guess is that Cody would say that sobriety has been a treasure.

He would also say it had a cost - literally, everything.

But as you've already heard him say, it has been worth everything!

A kingdom that is worth everything will cost everything and will be valued above everything.

Let's pray.