

THE GREAT TREASURE - MATTHEW 13:44

The Great Treasure

- **Hebrews 4:12 NLT**, “12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
 - We have studied and been taught this verse is referring the Bible but is it limited to just the written Word
 - What about the Word of God spoken in our hearts through His Holy Spirit

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- **Hebrews 4:12 NLT**, “12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
 - How do we keep the sword edge of God’s Word sharp in our lives?
 - How do we keep the commonplace understanding of a Bible story or a well-known Scripture passage from hindering us from seeing the text in a new, life-transforming way?

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 - Have we become so familiar with Scripture that it has lost its impact on our daily lives, that is until we find ourselves in hard events of life?
 - How can we hear God’s Word with fresh, exciting insights?

The Great Treasure

- Doug Newton, “The Word of God is immeasurably precious, and we should never get so comfortable with any passage that we cease to see its ongoing creative possibilities.”
- I think this is especially important when it comes to Jesus’ parables that can be looked at from different angles
- Scholar C. H. Dodd, “A parable is a metaphor or simile that arrests the hearer by its vividness or strangeness...leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought.”
- Jesus then and today wanted His followers to grapple with these wonderful stories

Twenty-Question Mystery

- Scenario - Mary lies dead on the floor. Tom is asleep on the couch. A colorless, odorless liquid surrounds Mary's body, and broken pieces of glass are also scattered around her. The windows and doors are all locked from the inside. What happened?
 - Tom is a cat. Mary is a goldfish. Tom knocked the fishbowl off the table, it broke, and Mary died.
- What assumptions did you start out with?
- How did you overcome those assumptions?
- Asking questions and seeking answers that led us to a different way of thinking or understanding

Scripture

- **Matthew 13:44 NIV**, “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.”
 - The first thing to notice is Jesus did not tell us what He meant like He did with the Parable of the Sower
- **Matthew 13:18 NIV**, “18 Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:”

Scripture

- **Matthew 13:44 NIV**, “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.”
 - The common meaning today has been, “The kingdom of heaven is such a precious treasure that we, like the man, should give up everything to lay hold of it.”
 - This interpretation is absolutely true proven by other scriptures
 - But is there another way to look at this and also be absolutely true?
 - Is there only one way to understand this parable?

Quick review of the facts we don't have to interpret

- What did the man buy?
 - Don't say treasure, he wanted the treasure but purchased the land
- How did the man come up with the money to buy the field?
 - He sold everything he owned
- What was his frame of mind while doing this?
 - He was joyful – Why?
 - Because of the wonderful treasure buried

The most important question to ask, “Who is the man?”

- Who are we assuming the main character to be?
- Could it be anyone else?
- What if the man who bought the field was not an ordinary man like us but the Son of God?
- What if Jesus is the one who finds the treasure?
- What is the treasure?
- What if we human beings are the treasure?

The most important question to ask, “Who is the man?”

- What if the field is the world that belongs to Satan?
- What if Jesus gives up everything He owns to purchase (*redeem*) us as His possession?
- What if this isn't a parable about all we must do to possess the kingdom?
- What if it describes God plan of salvation in a simple parable?

Scripture checking

- You can use the Bible to prove about anything you want if you take verses out of context like a verse on dating
 - **Colossians 2:21 NIV**, “21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”

Scripture checking

- **Matthew 13:44 NIV**, “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.”
 - ...then in his joy went – “for the joy set before him endured the cross...” (**Heb. 12:2**)
 - ...sold all he had – “[He] did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing...” (**Phil. 2:6-7**)

Scripture checking

- **Matthew 13:44 NIV**, “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.”
 - ...and bought the field – “You are not your own; you were bought at a price” (**1st Cor. 6:19-20**)
 - It Scripturally holds together

Looking at this parable in a different angle

- You can't just stand in one spot and observe Pike's Peak and grasp the magnitude of it
- Similarly, God's work of salvation is so vast (**Heb. 2:3**) we must view it from many angles to gain an accurate and complete understanding of it
- What is salvation?
 - Jesus died for our sins and if we confess and believe we can be saved or forgiven of our sin debt
 - This is true but I think it limits our understanding of the complete work of Jesus Christ that bought salvation to us

The kingdom of heaven can be described like this

- The prince of the world, Satan, possessed this world
- There were treasures buried in this world; you, me, everyone else
- The Son of God laid aside all He had and came to the earth (*the field*)
- Jesus redeemed (*repurchased*) this world (*field*) by defeating Satan on the cross and claiming the treasures found there
- Then He established and commissioned the church to enforce (*govern their lives by*) His kingdom's rule on earth
- And reclaim lost people (*treasures*) to His possession
- Salvation is not just our simple words of faith, but everything Jesus did to reclaim us as His precious treasure

The Great Treasure is not just about our salvation

- God is inviting us to join Him in His treasure seeking work
- This parable reveals our Lord's passion to reclaim people as treasures that belong to Him
- It tells of the length Jesus will go in making a person, any person, His

“Hello Turkey”

- Doug Newton, “A couple of years ago after church, a somewhat-unkept heavily tattooed young mom came up to me and my wife after having waited for people to clear out.”
 - She said, “You know your talk today, why did you look toward me and say ‘Hello, Turkey’?”
 - When asked why do you ask, it was followed by a lengthy description of her troubled life how through her ups and downs with drugs and lovers leaving her with children, but she had a loving grandmother that loved her and Jesus

“Hello Turkey”

- Doug Newton, “A couple of years ago after church, a somewhat-unkept heavily tattooed young mom came up to me and my wife after having waited for people to clear out.”
 - Before her grandma died, she asked her, “If I ever get back on the right track, and you can see me from heaven making good choices, will you somehow tell me, ‘Hello, Turkey’? That’s what she always called her.”
 - “This was my second week coming here to church, and this morning I clearly heard you say, ‘Hello, Turkey’. So, I’m thinking I’m on the right track.”

“Hello Turkey”

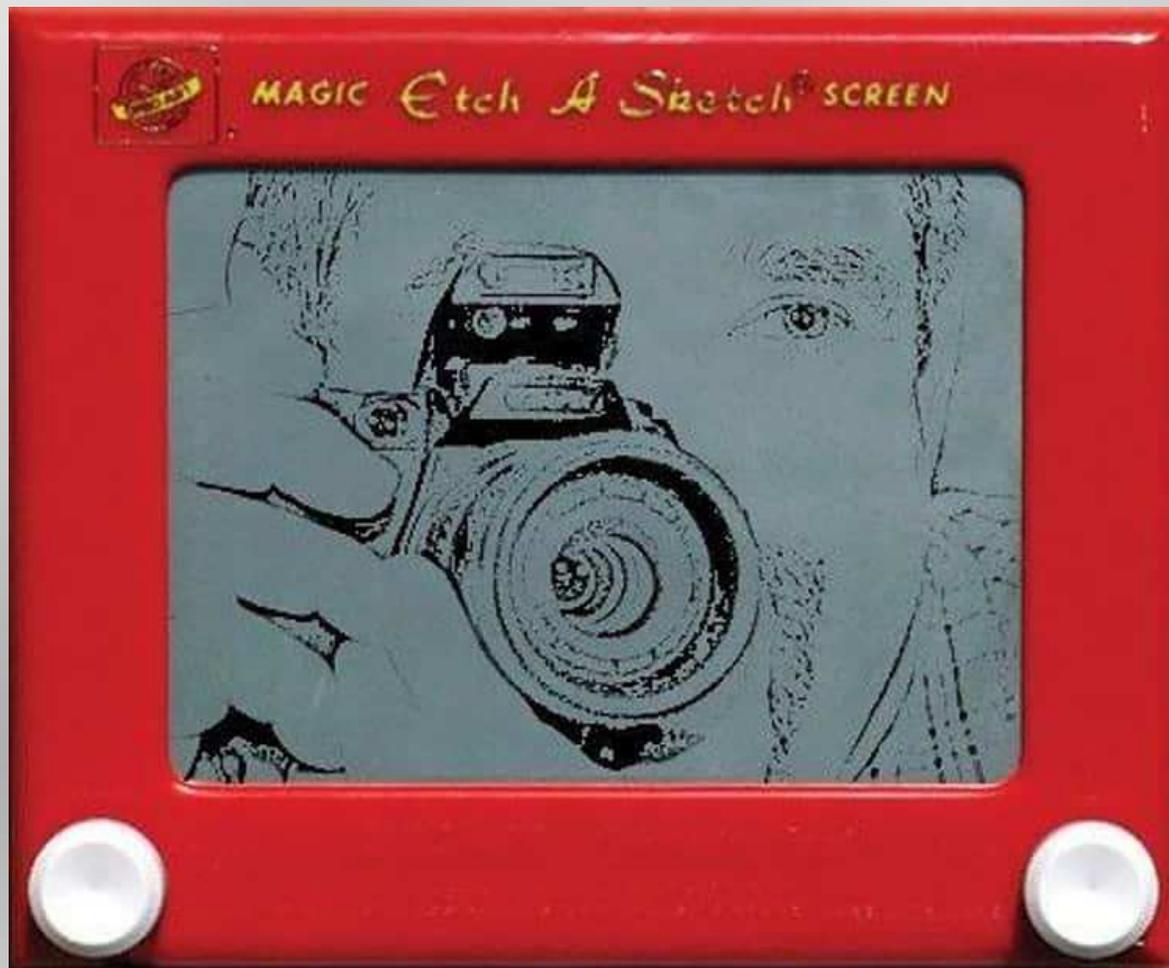
- Doug Newton, “A couple of years ago after church, a somewhat-unkept heavily tattooed young mom came up to me and my wife after having waited for people to clear out.”
 - I was able to tell her how much God loved her and said, “Jesus knew what you asked your grandma to say. So, He caused you to hear words this morning that I did not say.”

The Great Treasure in this parable is you and everyone else

- Our Lord looks at each of us as a treasure
 - He will stop at nothing, pay whatever price necessary, to help you become His possession, His treasure
 - He wants you to no longer be in any kind of bondage
 - With Satan no longer having a claim on you

The Great Treasure in this parable is you and everyone else

- **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, “17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
 - Just like an “*Etch A Sketch*”, He turns us upside down, erases the sin, shame, corruptions and marks the Devil left in your life
 - Granting you a clean slate and heart that He writes on by His Spirit
 - All because you belong to Him



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