Jesus Unfiltered - **WK 5 – What do you Value?**

**My grandma’s house, paying with her costume Jewelry - Pearl**

**Treasures – things of value.**

**Jesus spent 3 yrs – teaching the Kingdom of God - the #1 way He taught, 1/3 of all His teachings – was with Parables (comparisons)**

**Parables were Jesus way of weeding out the fans from followers**

**It concealed & revealed the truth – They told of the kingdom of God using examples form this life - “the kingdom of heaven in like…”**

**Last week - Matthew 13 - Jesus has a run in with some religious people - which triggered 8 parables about the kingdom...**

* **1st parable- Not everyone will accept the message of Jesus**
* **2nd parable - Kingdom people & evil people will grow in this world**
* **3rd / 4th parable - as Kingdom grows - the enemy will never stop**

**This week 4 parables from the same chapter - They ask a big question, What do you value the most? Like these things…**

The Parable of the Treasure

**A one verse parable - Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, (he was not looking…) he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.**

**This strikes the imagination of everyone. The discovery of hidden treasure. Since Solomon there have been stories of hidden and discovered treasure. Topic of many great stories.**

**The next parable is similar…** The Parable of the Pearl

**Matt 13:45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. (one of the greatest treasures of the ancient world) 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

**First story is someone not looking but discovers it - this one is someone looking and discovers.**

**He believes there is something out there worth looking for - A seeker - is that you? Maybe you're looking for something?**

**Several things Jesus is telling us here**

**In the first parable, the man was not looking for the treasure, but found it - God had other ideas. Understand this…**

* **What you thought was an accident or chance - God did on purpose**

**Did he just stumble upon it? You might think you stumbled in here - But - God brought you here... God is in charge.**

**I think of (Acts 9) Paul on the road to Damascus, doing his thing - on a trip to destroy the Kingdom he found - or rather Jesus found him! Paul in return left everything to follow Jesus - just as the disciple before him had.**

**Jesus told his disciples: John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit…**

**You think you found God – no, He found you!**

**There are those that are not looking for God - but God finds you**

**There those are who are looking intensely - and God reveals himself**

**Matt 13:45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. (A wealthy merchant – had all he needed, but still searching)**

**\*\*\* The things of this life will always leave you empty**

**Cars, houses, jobs, people… you’ll still be searching…**

**I have a challenge for you today seeker…**

* **Never give up looking for the truth**

**Some of you have been looking for a long time - Maybe since a kid wanting to know the why's of your pain & suffering. For some - you just started the journey... looking for truth in a current struggle**

**But if you seek God with all your heart look what happens -**

[**Jeremiah 29:13**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29:13&version=NIV) **- You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. / Matt 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. / Ps 34:4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.**

**Don't give up - don't throw in the towel - the HS has brought you here today... to find what you've been looking for.**

**The same response from both**

**\* The one who found the treasure**

**Matt 13:44b …he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.** **(Imagine being a hearer of this story - or imagine stumbling upon gold in a field – more valuable than anything you’ll ever have in your life… what did he do – trading everything!)**

**\* The merchant who found the pearl**

**Matthew 13: 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. (Jesus is telling us)**

* **The kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for**

**This is not about buying salvation – but the value of the kingdom**

**In that day valuables could not be hidden in a bank - they often buried them. This one was completely forgotten... until it was found again.**

**So, he does what we would all do if we found gold...**

**With joy he let's go of everything to get it**

**To everyone else – they might have looked ridiculous. But he knew…**

**If you do not have the treasure and you do this – that is ridiculous.**

**He found something worth losing everything for.**

**WHY? Because of what they would gain.**

**Do you see your Christian life as what you lose or gain?**

**Maybe you, like the story of Paul, know what it's like... Jesus found you when you least expected it - your eyes were opened… and all you can do it respond to Jesus with - take all of me!**

**Paul, though he had everything anyone would want - He later referred to himself as the least of these - and the chief of sinners - he had realized how poor he was w/out Jesus**

**(Paul says I had it all, position, prestige, popularity & wealth) Philippians 3:7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, (rubbish dung) that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**

**Do you see the value of losing it all for the sake of this treasure?**

**Others may not understand what you have - they may not see what you see - may even think you're crazy... but you know. It’s worth it.**

**The kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for**

**I have ($20) under something… if you have 5 dollars I’ll give it to you after service. But you need to come down now and pay for it.**

**Is it worth it? Finding it- coming down here- in front of everyone**

**This is key: Jesus is better than the best things this world has to offer: Greater than money, health, strength, friends, boy/ girlfriend, husband, wife, children… He is better than all of them put together.**

**Are you willing to trade this life - to get the kingdom of heaven?**

**Jesus at this point is talking only to his disciples- the crowds are gone, these are men & women who would lose everything... even their lives**

* + **What was it that Stephen knew when he was stoned to death?**
	+ **What was it James knew as he had his head cut off?**
	+ **What was it Peter knew as he was crucified upside down?**
	+ **What was it Paul knew as he was beheaded?**

**What is it that millions have known and still do around the world - that allows them to endure persecution, face death, to trade this world, and stand strong in the face of opposition? They saw the gain, not the loss.**

**I'll tell you what it is - they have a great treasure - Jesus the King!**

**Christ follower, do you understand the value of what you have?**

**Antique roadshow moment –**

**This parable teaches us this**

* **We come to the kingdom - because Jesus is the greater reward**

**Jesus is the priceless treasure – the great and beautiful pearl**

**He’s better than all the best things of this world put together**

**Philippians 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

 **- Paul in (2 Cor 4:7) refers to knowing Jesus as a treasure.**

**Jesus is worth letting go of all things in order to take hold of Him as the one thing (Isaiah 34:18,19)**

**With salvation come benefits and we are to remember and be thankful, but the real reward is this – Jesus! Is He enough for you?**

**\* Would you want to go to heaven if everything you ever wanted was there…but Jesus was not? Would you still want to go to heaven if being with Jesus was all you got?**

**These two parables also in many ways also tell us how Jesus - sees you as a treasure - so much that he gave all he had (his life) for you to be hidden in him - Jesus purchased us and bought you with His blood**

**Which leads to the next -** The Parable of the Net

**Matthew 13:47 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. (dragnet - weighted and dragged along bottom - dragged all the way to shore. The lake is the world.) 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. (Actually done by the fishermen) 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** **(hell – a harsh reality & mystery of the kingdom is this…)**

* **Some in the net, are not in the kingdom**

**The kingdom will draw many people... but at the shore (the return of Jesus) they will be separated... Jesus reminds us of the reality of a great separation - between an eternal Kingdom & an eternal judgment.**

**Jesus is saying many who come under the power and influence of the kingdom are not true disciples of Jesus. They are caught up in the energy & sway of the net - caught up in the moment... but not real**

**Our role is to – drag the net**

**Matthew 13:51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. (okay then I have one more for you - Jesus finished off with this)**

The Parable of the Homeowner

**Matthew 13:52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven (referring to them and anyone who hears and understands what I am saying) is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (brings things out to give away - both old and new items are valuable - so it is w/ the OT and NT)**

* **Don't just treasure the Kingdom - teach it! All of it!**

**(Psalm 19:7-11, Proverbs 3:13-18, Ezra 7:10, Matt 5:17-20, Romans 10:4, Galatians 3:23-25, Ephesians 2:15, Luke 24:25-27)**

**If you understand this - then you are responsible to share all of it!**

**The treasure of the Kingdom is both in the Old covenant and the New**

**The kingdom of heaven is found throughout scripture -**

**The New brings light to the old - Jesus fulfills the OT**

**Jesus fulfills every prophecy and demand of the OT - completes it**

**OT screams Jesus in every book, every story, every event - tells of Jesus and the Kingdom. Together they proclaim!**

**Jesus established the Kingdom thru his death on the cross - to satisfy the payment for our sins and reconcile us back to God. His resurrection proved it! And He will return again to usher in His kingdom – receiving some to eternal life other to judgment! Until then – I will walk by the Spirit to live his love and proclaim this truth!**

**I will – we will – proclaim - All of it. Jesus is telling them / us – we have a responsibility to know it and share it.**

**Jesus tells them - Don’t just treasure this good news; teach this good news of the kingdom – give it away to anyone who will receive it.**

**Ironically in the next few verses - Jesus returns to his home town - only to be rejected and mocked... by the people who saw him grow up.**

**SO - Two BIG challenges today:**

**Psalm 136:3, 1 Timothy 6:12-15; Revelation 17:14, 19:16, Ephesians 1:20-23**

* **Do you see the value of the kingdom?**

**Then joyfully leave everything to receive and possess it**

**Jesus is that treasure – Jesus is that pearl**

**Do you really believe he is worth abandoning everything for?**

**Let go of your sin, guilt, & shame - and leave behind those empty pleasures, pursuits & possessions. See in Christ a king worth losing everything for - and gain a more valuable treasure**

* **Do you embrace the value of the Kingdom?**

**Then boldly and urgently spread the good news of it**

**The world is dying for the truth of the kingdom**

**The world is in need of the hope of the Kingdom**

**The world is crying out for a redeemer to rescue them**

**The world needs to know and experience the love of the king**

**Will you tell them? Will you live the Kingdom?**

**Lord I will stand - I will tell - I will treasure you above all things**