**Buried Treasure!**

**Luke 6:12-26**

1. **Buried Treasure:**

In his wonderful book, ***The Treasure Principle*,** author **Randy Alcorn**, writes:

*All your life, you’ve been on a treasure hunt. You’ve been searching for a perfect person and a perfect place. If you’re a Christian, you’ve already met that person—Jesus. And you’re headed to that place—Heaven*.

1. That **Treasure is God.**  He is the only One who can satisfy that yearning within us for real life.

**Saint Augustine** put it like this: “*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You*.”

**Matthew 13:44** *“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.”*

1. Who or what is your treasure? In **Matthew 6:21**, Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
2. **The first treasure: Prayer!**
3. Jesus **prayed often** and for **long periods** of time.
4. Why did Jesus need to pray if He was the Son of God? Because he was also the Son of man.
5. When he left the glories of Heaven, Scripture says, [He] made himself nothing [the ESV says, (He) ‘emptied Himself’], taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man! (Philippians 2:7-8).
6. What does this mean?
7. By emptying himself, this does not mean that He gave up His deity. That would be heresy.
8. It is better to think of Christ’s “emptying” Himself as temporarily laying aside some of his divine privileges that were His in heaven.
9. As a man Jesus completely submitted Himself to the will and wisdom of His Father.

**Mark 1:35** “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

**Luke 5:16** “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

1. Prayer is a privilege reserved **only for God’s true children**.
2. **Worldly pursuits:**
3. Jesus has a way of turning every worldly idea and philosophy upside down.
4. What the world calls good, Jesus calls evil.
5. What the world puts forth as wisdom, Jesus calls foolishness.
6. Who the world holds up as a role model, Jesus scorns.
7. Jesus is telling His followers that the treasures of this world will never satisfy. Why? Because they were never meant to satisfy. They are like **broken cisterns** that hold no water.

**Jeremiah 2:13** *My people have committed two sins: They have* ***forsaken me*** *the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns,* ***broken cisterns that cannot hold water*.**

1. **Radical Teaching of Jesus:** In verses 20-26, Jesus is teaching three truths;
2. **The Calling:** Jesus describes the heart of a man God calls.
3. The beatitudes are describing the heart of a man who is pleasing to God:
4. What kind of man is God seeking to call to follow Jesus?

* A man with a humble and contrite spirit.
* A man who grieves over his own personal sin and the sins he sees all around him in the world.
* A man who looks at his inner sinfulness, repents, turns to Jesus for salvation, and then pursues a more righteous life in Christ.
* Therefore, because of his humility before God and man, and because of his desire to live a life of obedience to Christ, he should not expect to win the award for popularity.

1. **The Cost:** Jesus he tells them right up front the heavy price of following Him.
2. What can a man expect if he really takes a stand for Jesus in this world?

* To be excluded!
* To be rejected!
* To be insulted!
* To be hated!
* To be persecuted, and perhaps,
* To literally die!

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer:** “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

**Matthew 10:38:** “Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

1. **The Warning:** Jesus issues a warning to those who pursue the pleasures of this world.
2. Jesus is describing the vast majority of people who are relentlessly pursuing the pleasures and objects of this world.
3. Why is Jesus warning so strongly not to do this? For two primary reasons:

* Jesus knows, more so than anyone else, that this world holds nothing that can truly satisfy us.

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud…unholy…lovers of pleasure rather than loves of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

* Jesus knows the destiny of this world and the destiny of those who have rejected Him.

1. **Corinthians 7:31** “For this world in its present form is passing away.”

**2 Peter 3:10-13** "But the day of the lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bard.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heart. But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

1. **Take-aways:**
2. If this world is your greatest treasure, you are to be pitied above all men.
3. Our soul is the only part of us and this world that will last forever.
4. Our souls are destined for one of two places: heaven or hell.
5. We cannot give anything or pay any amount of money to purchase our way into heaven.
6. What is the solution?

* Jesus Christ paid the way for us. He is the greatest treasure any of us can have.
* God gave Him to the world as a gift.
* We must receive this gift, this Treasure, and there is only one way—by true saving faith.

1. It is true: following Jesus is costly, but as the late Darlene Rose said, “However, the compensations far outweigh the costs.”