## JESUS OUR TREASURE

*Matthew 13:44-46* 

The parables of Jesus reveal who are the real insiders/outsiders of the kingdom of heaven

#### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

## The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

### **Interpretive Question #1:**

What do the man/merchant and treasure/pearl represent?

#### **Interpretive Question #2:**

What does Jesus mean by "Kingdom of Heaven"?

The kingdom of heaven (embodied in Jesus) is a price-less treasure worthy of our highest devotion and affection

## The "Third" Christological Affirmation of Matt. 13:44-46:

- Jesus is Lord
- Jesus is Savior
- Jesus is <u>Treasure</u>

#### Luke 10:41-42

<sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

#### Philippians 1:19-21

"It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is

#### Philippians 3:7-11

<sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

#### 1 Peter 1:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

"Courage, self-sacrifice, steadiness of purpose, versatility and resourcefulness, width of ready sympathy, were all harmonized by deep reverence and the discipline of a single-minded lover of Christ." -Biographer of Athanasius

"What is the chief end of man? To glorify God & enjoy Him forever." – Westminster Catechism Question #1

"If I had a thousand pounds China should have it- if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a precious Savior?" -Hudson Taylor

Biblical Christianity (treasuring Christ) is an affair of the mind, the will, and the affections of the heart

# "Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God."

- Martin Luther

#### Revelation 2:2-6

<sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

#### Titus 2:11-4

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live selfcontrolled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

### The Pathway to Treasuring Jesus:

Worldly-passions become expelled from the human heart and replaced with genuine affection for God when the mind is enabled (by the Spirit) to grasp just how free, wide and deep the love and grace of Christ Jesus really is

# Three "Heart Clogs" that inhibit Treasuring Jesus:

Unconfessed Sin

Bitter Roots

Distorted View of Jesus

## Biblical Texts for Renewing Your Vision of Jesus:

John 1:1-8 John 15-17 Philippians 2:5-11 Colossians 1:15-21 Ephesians 1:1-11 Titus 2:11-14 Hebrews 4:14-16 2 Peter 1:3-11 Revelation 21-22

My wife and I would want the world to know this...

We don't follow God because we have some sort of under-the-table deal with Him, like, we'll follow you if you bless us. We follow God because we love Him. It's our honor. He is the God of the hills and the valleys. And He is beautiful above all things. - Toby Mac on his son's untimely death