

## Treasure Hunters – The Hunt Is On

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When you think about a treasure hunter, the first image that comes to mind, for those of us over 40, is

\*\*\* Indiana Jones

For those of you younger folks, it's

\*\*\* Benjamin Yates

Good looking, dashing, courageous, always gets the girl.

But, today, a typical treasure hunter would probably, more than likely, look like this

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Or this

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Or this

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Or these folks

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\*\*\* Huh?

I am detecting on a beach and an old fellow walks up to me and says "hey if you find my watch I'd really appreciate it if you give it back to me.....It's easy to identify because my name is on it"

I said "sure no problem...what's your name"

and then with a twinkle in his eye he said, "Rolex"

\*\*\* Hmmm....

There are only three types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live not seeking, or finding him. The first are rational and happy; the second unhappy, but rational, and the third foolish and unhappy." Blaise Pascal

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Most of us when we think about treasure, the first thing that comes to mind is a chest full of gold or \*\*\*objects made of gold. Something valuable that would make us monetarily rich.

But what about a revelation that transforms the way you see God or His people. What about a truth about the root of a behavior you've been trying to change for years.

What about the real motive behind what drives you to do what you do?

These truths and others are all treasures that, if you will look for them, God promises that you will find.

A few years ago I discovered a truth about myself that changed the way I lead my Christian walk. You see, I discovered that I was a people pleaser through series of revelations and studies on a passage in Luke. I discovered that I was more driven to please other people than I was even to obey the commands of scripture. This is a dangerous place to be, especially as a Pastor, trying to be liked, but also leading people and following after God. Those 2 don't always go together and the one that is your priority is the one that will win out in the end.

Several years ago, Laurie had a dream of God's glory after a time of searching and seeking after Him. She had heard all these stories of people seeing angles, and gold dust, and sparkles, and shiny. And Laurie one night asked God, show me your glory! I want to see your magnificence. And God showed her in a dream. The horse bit.

Many of you in here have a similar story about God showing you truth about yourself or about Him and in everyone one of your stories, there was a journey, or a process, or a hunt that was involved in this revelation and that is what I want to focus on today.

\*\*\*Matthew 13:45-46

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

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46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Seek - zēteō (dzay-teh'-o)

Of uncertain affinity; to seek (literally or figuratively); **specifically (by Hebraism) to worship (God)**, or (in a bad sense) to plot (against life):—be (go) about, desire, endeavour, enquire (for), require, (X will) seek (after, for, means).

In other words, this guy didn't just do this as a hobby. He wasn't like these folks on the beach looking for lost coins and jewelry. He didn't just do this for fun or obligation on the weekends, he devoted his entire life to the hunt for this treasure. This became his worship, because ultimately, the object that is the most important in your life is what you worship.

**\*\*\*1. This merchant lived his life hunting after treasure.** He had made a lifestyle out of seeking. Everything he did, every relationship he developed, every purchase he made, was ultimately about finding this treasure.

I wonder how he got into treasure hunting. Perhaps his dad showed him a few pearls that he had found as a fisherman and said son, the ocean is filled with these pearls and if you'll dedicate your life to the hunt, ultimately you'll come across the big one!

This merchant had seen a glimpse of what could be and had a choice. He could decide to be satisfied with the glimpse that his father showed him or he could decide to devote his entire life to the hunt for more.

In the movies a while back, theaters would place a frame of popcorn or drinks in the middle of a film to cause the audience to want popcorn. It was called subliminal advertising. It was a quick glimpse of something that caused the viewer to want more. (and I'm convinced that they still use it)

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You see guys, many of you in here have only seen a glimpse of God's majesty. Probably, you've experienced the forgiveness of your sin that comes from repentance. But you see, that is just a glimpse into the kingdom of God. Salvation is just the entry way! There is so much more! John 10:10

This is, in a way, what God has done to each of us upon meeting Him. He gives us a glimpse of the glory that can be ours, which in turn gives us a choice. We can be satisfied with the glimpse, or we can let that glimpse causes us, like the merchant, to want to seek Him more.

Have you settled today for just a glimpse?

Folks next week we all return to our lives before the summer started.