

## Treasure Hunters 2

### *Finders Keepers*

#### **\*\*\*Review: Treasure Hunters-1 "The Hunt is On!"**

Treasure is more than gold or money.

The Treasure God asks us to seek can be...

\*\*\*a revelation that transforms the way you see God or His people.

\*\*\*a truth about the root of a behavior you've been trying to change for years.

\*\*\*a discovery of a motive behind what drives you to do what you do?

\*\*\*a divine moment when you come to the knowledge that God is real, that He loves you so much that He sacrificed His life for you, and He touches your heart in a way that makes all of the words on the printed page...come alive.

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

#### **\*\*\*Matthew 13:45-46 (Read)**

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,  
46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

\*\*\*Kingdom of Heaven (God) Defined- (These terms are sometimes used interchangeably). *The spiritual realm where God reigns sovereignly. It is composed of all beings who are willingly subject to His rule and thus enjoy fellowship with Him.*

*"Seek"* - zēteō

to seek; **to worship (God)**, go about, desire, endeavour, enquire (for), require, seek (after, for, means).

**\*\*\*This merchant lived his life hunting after treasure.**

**-God sometimes gives us a glimpse of His glory and it is our choice to either dig deeper or to settle for that very small bit of treasure.**

\*\*\*Title Page



**"Finders Keepers"**

Ex) **Choir story with "Pete"**, the guy who did off key adlibs. He was in his own little world, but people loved to watch him worship. He had found some treasure, and it was deep down. It was what fueled him.



\*\*\***Matthew 13:44**

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Just as before we talked about the Treasure Hunter. Now we see the story of a treasure finder.

**Background Commentary:** According to rabbinic law, if a worker came across buried treasure in someone else's field and lifted it out, the treasure would belong to the owner. In this story, the laborer was careful not to lift out the treasure. To obtain this treasure, which far surpassed the value of *all he had*, he would have to sell everything he had so he could buy the field. He did this joyfully. The man who discovered the treasure in the field stumbled upon it by accident but knew its value when he found it.

**---You see, spiritual truths are sometimes buried deep; even hidden from most people. They don't see it. It lies beneath the fabric of our faith like rich veins of ore in the earth. It must be mined and cultivated. It must be sought out diligently, and was attained, you will be repaid for anything you've had to sacrifice to uncover and keep this treasure.**

**Background Commentary (Cont):** Some have wondered about the morality of a man obtaining a treasure in this way, but Jesus was not teaching a moral lesson. He was merely showing the value of this treasure that is worth every sacrifice and commitment to obtain. The kingdom of heaven is more valuable than anything else we can have, and a person must be willing to give up everything to obtain it.

**Ex) Story of the Hilton School Bell**



\*\*\* **Founded in 1919. Only school in Virginia that was built on the banks of the James River. A few years back, a woman was perusing a garage sale in another state and stumbled across a big bell. She bought it, and then started to research the bell to find out its origins. After some study, a phone call was made to Hilton Elementary. The woman had found the original school bell of 1919.**

---

---**Spiritual Treasure Finders need to make a choice (and this is key according to our verse of scripture) in order to keep the treasure we've found...what we have to do is treasure the treasure!**

\*\*\* ***Webster's Dictionary Defines the Verb "to Treasure" as this...***

1. to regard or treat as precious; cherish.
2. to retain carefully or keep in store, as in the mind.
3. to put away for security or future use, as money.

---this is a secular definition, but with deep spiritual truths about keeping and benefitting from the nuggets of precious worth that God reveals to us.

---

\*\*\***How to be a Finder AND Keeper:**

**1. Give it a place of honor (cherish)**

**Ex) Maggie's purple glitter blob ball ornament on my tree-place of distinction**

\*\*\***Matthew 5:16**

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

---In other words, We need to live in a way that doesn't give God a bad reputation.



**Ex)\*\*\*** You Notice here with the Hilton School Bell that after finding the treasure of the original school bell, they didn't lock it away in a closet somewhere and dust it off to bring out at Christmas or Easter. They displayed it proudly every day for all to see. They gave it a place of distinction!

**\*\*\*How to be a Finder AND Keeper:**

1. Give it a place of honor (*"cherish"*)
2. Hide it in Your Heart (*"retain carefully"*)

**\*\*\*Matthew 13:44**

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**\*\*\*"Hidden" or "Hid"** *Greek Word kroop'-to*  
to *conceal*, hide (self), keep secret, a secret place

--- This word is the origin for our modern day "crypt" which is a hidden or secret place. A Place where valuables are cherished and kept.

**Commentary: Mary, when given the revelation from the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Jesus, kept it in her heart. She concealed this treasure and pondered on it.**

**\*\*\*Psalm 119:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Your word I have treasured (KJV "hid") in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.*

---we have to ponder deeply the secrets that God shows us. They have to be etched on the tablet of our hearts so that we don't forget them when the circumstances of life scream loudly. Those mountain top experiences have to be treasured and cherished for the times in the dark valley.

**\*\*\*How to be a Finder AND Keeper:**

1. Give it a place of honor (*"cherish"*)

2. **Hide it in Your Heart** (“*retain carefully*”)

3. **Store it up in order to share** (“*put away for security and future use*”)

**Commentary:** To keep the spiritual treasure you find, you have to store it and you have to look for ways to seek more and build up reserves in order to have something to share.

### **The Definition of a storehouse or treasury is: treasury**

1. the revenues or funds of a government, private organization, or individual
2. a place where funds are kept and disbursed

Ex) the storehouses and royal treasuries of the Bible were used not only by those depositing money and treasure into it, but their purpose was also to distribute funds to those in need. During times of famine, the storehouses of goods and wealth were distributed among all people.

### **\*\*\* An Example is Genesis 41:47-49**

<sup>47</sup>During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly.

<sup>48</sup>So he gathered all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields.

<sup>49</sup>Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure.

---Many came to receive treasure and stored goods from Joseph in Egypt. Many were saved because of the storehouses that Joseph was wise enough to keep full and at the ready. Even his own brothers, who seemingly didn't deserve his mercy.

### **Conclusion:**

So why do we need to not only be a Seeker of Treasure but also keeper of the Treasure we find?

---Because Jesus Christ is the true treasure and without Him, we are lost. The pursuit of the Kingdom of God brings with it a revelation of Jesus Christ that will keep us secure and discerning of what is right and what is wrong. It will bring hope to the hopeless and joy to the joyless and love to those that others consider unloveable!

### **\*\*\* Proverbs 2:1-5**

- 1 **My son, if you will receive my words  
And treasure my commandments within you,**
- 2 **Make your ear attentive to wisdom,  
Incline your heart to understanding;**

- <sup>3</sup> For if you cry for discernment,  
Lift your voice for understanding;**
- <sup>4</sup> If you seek her as silver  
And search for her as for hidden treasures;**
- <sup>5</sup> Then you will discern the fear of the LORD  
And discover the knowledge of God.**

Conclusion”

Our Lord’s meaning seems to be this:—The kingdom of heaven—the salvation provided by the Gospel—is like a treasure—something of inestimable worth—hidden in a field; it is a rich mine, the veins of which run in all directions in the sacred Scriptures; therefore, the field must be dug up, the records of salvation diligently and carefully turned over, and searched. Which, when a man hath found—when a sinner is convinced that the promise of life eternal is to him, he kept secret—pondered the matter deeply in