

Matthew 13:44

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

I have a painting that I have had since I was 16 years old. It is a pastel on a black canvas of a lions head that was painted by a 18 year old, and in my eyes I think that it's amazing. So since I have had this painting since I was 16, this picture is 45 years old.

Everything I have gone through in life, this is one thing I have from way back then that I have always brought with me through life.

When I first saw it hanging in a restaurant/club I used to go to, I knew I just had to have it, and I bought it for \$75. Over the years, the frame broke as well as the glass, and it just sat there for years. Then this year I had it professionally framed, and 45 years later, it looks even better then it did with the new frame, then it did back then in the late 70's.

But for me, it's my treasure. But not everyone who sees it may think of it that way, and some may not even like it. But it doesn't matter what others think, because a treasure is a treasure in the eyes of the beholder of that treasure.

Now anyone can see a bunch of gold bars that are worth millions of dollars and think that that is a treasure. But honestly, that is not a treasure, it's just a bunch of gold, and is not special to the individual who has it, because everyone thinks it's a treasure, only because it equates to money, but in heaven, it would be considered asphalt. So the world sees gold as a treasure, and in heaven that same treasure is thought of as asphalt.

✠ **Revelation 21:21b** *And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

With all that in mind, read today's verse again where Jesus is saying: *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Some read this and think, (Like I used to) that the treasure was Jesus and we found him and gave our all for Him. But that's not right at all. No, the treasure Jesus is talking about here is you (and me), which He found and Jesus sees you as a treasure in His eyes, therefore He gave His all, which would be His life on the cross, to purchase you.

"Yeah, but most people don't see me as a treasure, they make fun of me and say bad things about me. Heck, I don't even see myself as a treasure.", you may be thinking. Once again, a treasure is a treasure in the eyes of the beholder, regardless of what others think. So what if others have put you down in the past, or even the present. Just like, one of my treasures over the years is my

painting, regardless of what others think or how they feel about it. It's MY treasure, not theirs, so their opinion doesn't matter to me at all.

Just like YOU are JESUS' treasure, it doesn't matter what others think about you, because in Jesus' eyes, you are to die for... literally. Now, I would not die for my painting. But another treasure I do have is my wife and kids, and I would die for them, because I treasure them.

You may have that one certain item in your home that you treasure, and some may have even said to you, "*Why do you still have that, it's worthless.*" but in your eyes, it's worth everything because of what it means to you. So just as you treasure that one thing, and you know why you treasure it, remember that Jesus thinks even more highly of you and treasures you.

So, if you are a treasure, then stop belittling yourself and saying you are worthless, and that no one cares for you, because YOU ARE a treasure, and you belong to Jesus. Not for Him to put in a treasure chest and hide, but to display where He can look at you, His personal treasure all the time.

- † **Psalm 139:17-18** *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*
- † **Song of Songs 4:9 (NLT2)** *You have captured my heart, my treasure, my bride. You hold it hostage with one glance of your eyes, with a single jewel of your necklace.*
- † **Psalm 40:5** *Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.*