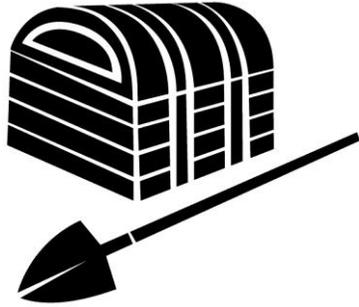


Don't Treasure Treasure; Treasure the Treasure

- Today J tells 2 prbls, very short/simlr: **vs. 44-46**. In both: man finds amazing trsr, recgnzs incmprbl value, & does whtvr can to make trsr own. In 1st, trsr in field; sells evthng & buys field. In 2nd, pearl great price; again sells evthng, buys pearl – bec recgnzs & apprctcs value of trsr.
- What love re these prbls: we can very easily relate; know what means: apprct & trsr smthng valuable. If into cars: apprct value of 1969 Pontiac GTO Judge (or whtvr your fav car is). Wine: apprct how right vintage, grape variety, technq all come tog to produce fantastic wine. Antiques: know how certain items have intrinsic or histrcl value. Music: marvel at how great composers can create musical mstrpcs. Fine food: recgnz diff btwn \$-menu burger McD & steak dinner Ruth's Chris. We know what means trsr smthng of great value; precious; stands out, rises above rest – true trsr!
- That's what these 2 prbls are all about: trsrng a trsr. Here: **vs. 44**. What's trsr here? Or, **vs. 45-46**. What's pearl here? What's the trsr J is teaching us to trsr?
- Before answer that, let's be clear on what trsr is not. Our 1st rdng fr 1 Tim talks lot re trsr, but says **vs. 9-10**. So: the trsr is not trsr, or \$. So be very careful not to love your \$ or earthly wlth/possessns, bec if do, it will destroy you! Love of \$ ruins fams, destroys margs, embitters siblings when prnts die, breaks apart business prtnrshps, bankrupts corportns, and elevates an idol in your hrt above J. \$ becomes a god – a god that's as good at saving you as golden calf. So even though we may appr classic cars, fine wine, antiques, good music, fine food, thngs of earthly value – Scr emptcly warns us not to trsr those trsrs. This psg even says: those trsrs **“plunge ppl”** (trrbly graphic word pic: forcing smone under wtr, holding until drown) **“into ruin/dstretn”** – etrnal dstretn. When you love \$ & trsr trsr, you lose faith/Xp. And w/o faith/Xp, you go to hell, no matter how much trsr you have.
- So don't trsr trsr; don't love your \$. And I think this is such imp msg for all us today, for 2 reasons: 1) We have so much \$; so wealthy. Compared to most of rest wrld's popltn, we live in opulent luxry. 2) In our consmr culture, if you don't have smthng want, really easy to get it. Just go Amazon.com; in few clicks: on doorstep w/in 24 hrs. So, bec we're so wealthy, and can get things so easily, tempted to trsr trsr and not trsr the trsr. Catch that? Tempted to trsr trsr (love money/possessns) instead of trsrng the trsr (the trsr these prbls are talking about).
- So what are these prbls talking re when say: **vs. 44a, 45a**? What's the pearl/trsr? Here: trsr = Gos! Trsr = good news of God's forgvnss/grace thru life/dth/res of J! That's the trsr! So don't TT; TTT, this trsr, trsr/Gos! Trsr fact: when you lost in sin/unbelf, hoplssly heading for hell, God Fr intervnd & enacted perf plan rescue thru Son JC – who left home/hvn, took on human flesh, became man, lived amng us, nvr sinned, lived holy/rights life, not for own credit, but so could credit his rightsnss to us. So now, bec/J, God Fr looks at us as if we: as sinless as J. And to pay price for obvious reality that we abstlty not sinless (sin all time, born in sin), J willngly, lovngly, w/o hesittn offered up life to suf/dth on cross. Then w/his almighty pwr, on ES morn J rose fr dead, opened for us door to etrnal life, w/prom: someday he'll raise us, as well, bring us be w/him in perf peace/joy of hvn. And all of this: ours, not by own works/good deeds, but solely by God's grace, thru faith/Xp. That is Gos; that is trsr!
- So question is: do you trsr that trsr? Do you consider God's grace to you in Xp the single most imp trsr you have in your life? Are you willing to lose/give up evthng you have to buy field, purchase pearl, make trsr your own? Or say, “Sure, nice pearl, but I've got other pearls, too. Yeah, my church/faith/Sav imp to me; but there's more to life than just J.”
- Today J tells 2 prbls, very short/similar, msg very simple: don't TT; TTT. Don't love your \$. Trsr Gos w/same passion & zeal as guys who sold evthng & bought field & purchsd pearl. **Vs. 44-46**. Don't let anything in life become more imp than this trsr! Do whtvr can to make this trsr your own forever! Don't be passive/lukewarm re Gos; be passionate re Gos – bec your Sav was not passive/lukewarm re saving you; he was passionate re saving you. In fact, to J, you are his pearl/trsr; he gave up evthng to make you his own forever. That is your true trsr. So don't TT; TTT.



Matthew 13:44-46

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. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

1 Timothy 6:9-10

⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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