July 31, 2019

Scripture

**Matthew 13: 44-46**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

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**Our Scripture Reflection**

Jesus’ two parables each make two important points for would-be disciples:

1. True treasure abounds in God’s Kingdom if one knows where to look for it

2. What are you willing to invest; what effort are you willing to put forth to acquire the treasure?

The most important treasure we could possess in this life is our faith. Why? Because faith is the key to unlocking the door to our eternal dwelling in Heaven.

Are you willing to put your best effort into both acquiring and growing in your faith?
Food for your Journey

There is a fable from India about a rich man who is traveling far from home. A poor man notices his fine clothes and bulging money-bag. He decides to travel with him and look out for a way to steal his treasure.

Every night, in the humble inns along the roadside, the poor man unrolls his bedroll early and pretends to sleep. Then, as the rich man leaves the room to get washed up, the thief rummages through his belongings in search of the treasure-sack.

He never can find it. As soon as he hears the rich man's footsteps, he leaps back into his bedroll, always certain he's just moments away from finding the treasure.

Every morning, the poor man once again pretends to sleep, until the rich man goes down for breakfast. Yet, morning is the same as evening: The thief never can find the money-bag.

Day after day this goes on, until the two men finally reach their destination. As they are parting ways, the thief's curiosity gets the better of him. He admits to the rich man what he's been up to. "How have you eluded me for so long?" he asks. "Did you guess that I was out to rob you?"

"Yes," says the rich man. "I guessed that the very first night."

"Then where did you hide the treasure?"

"It was very simple. Every night, while you went to get cleaned up before bed, I slipped into the room and put my treasure in your pillow. Every morning, after you had rifled through my belongings, I got it back."

Sometimes we miss the treasure close at hand.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Your Kingdom is both a marvelous and mysterious thing. So many things in this life appear to be treasure, of value and worthy of my attention. But the those things of the material realm are not truly treasure. As people have said since I was a child, “You can’t take it with you.” Lord, only my faith in and love for You can lead me to the life that never ends. May I put my effort and energy in growing closer to You. Amen