

Remember the treasure you discovered.

Good morning Communion. It is such a privilege always to share the Word with you. I hope you had a fantastic first term and that you enjoyed the series on Remember here at our services and also in your small groups. I know that we had some amazing discussions around this theme.

My theme for today is the following: Remember the treasure that you discovered. So I am staying for now to the theme of remember. Next term we will be moving to the subtheme represent under our year theme of recalibrate.

Matthew 13: 44 <sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

### **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value**

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

There is a treasure that we discovered. And this treasure according to Matthew 13 is the Kingdom of heaven.

About two weeks ago I had a conversation with a high School student. A very intelligent student who asked questions that most teens don't even think about. And I understand why he would ask these questions as there are so many theories about the last days and the second coming of Jesus and the war that is currently happening on social

media. But the question that he asked me and that I tried to answer was the following: If we are in heaven someday: wont it be boring there? Will it actually be better than what we have here on earth?

I don't know if you can remember when you were a child how this theme could be bothersome. Everyone that so urgently wanted Jesus to come back and then you think to yourself, but I want to get married someday and have kids of my own and I also want to know what it is like to be an adult and I still want to travel and explore this world.

And when I started thinking about how I also felt that way , I thought to myself , when did I start to feel differently? When did the Kingdom of heaven become more valuable than the things that this world could give me?

Jesus explains that the kingdom of heaven , is like a treasure that we discover and then when you find it you want to make it your own.

This treasure that was found unlocked reactions from the person who found it.

Firstly , the person hid the treasure away.

Secondly , He became glad about the treasure.

Thirdly, He sold everything he had to be able to buy the land where the treasure was hidden so he could make it his own.

Then we see that this same Kingdom of heaven is compared to a pearl. Someone who collects pearls saw the great value of this pearl and then he sold everything he had to be able to purchase this one very costly pearl.

The day you discovered Jesus , as your Saviour and your redeemer and this new life in in Him, you discovered a Treasure. Something of endless Worth. Something that you would not want to lose, something that you would do anything to attain and to keep. To make Him your own.

### 1.The first reaction : To hide the treasure.

If this treasure was something to seek out and to find, why would the person hide it away? Was it so he could keep it only for himself? Was it selfish? That he did not want to share it with anyone else? No the person saw how precious this treasure was and so he hid it so that nothing could take it away from him. Until he was certain that it was his own he wanted to make sure that nothing could take it away.

And that is why I made my theme for today: Remember the treasure you discovered. What worth will this treasure have if it is forgotten? If we are careless with it, if it is not something that we cherish and hide away in our hearts. Think for a moment to the time when you just met Jesus. The days when you started to grasp His Words for the first time. How much more you wanted to find out about this Jesus who saved you and what His salvation means for the rest of your life.

I remember that I was only a little girl when I discovered this for the very first time. My relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ was something that made me so excited. I could not wait to speak to Him. To experience how He speaks to me. As a little girl I remember one night as I went to bed I dozed off without praying and a cricket in my window woke me up. Instead of being annoyed with the sound of this cricket and wanting to kill it, I remember thanking Jesus for using a cricket to wake me up because I realized that I hadn't talked to him before going to bed.

I remember when I was a leader at my school CSV group and how I managed to talk to my friends about Jesus and it was wonderful for me that the Lord helped me to understand His Word. Matthew 11: 25 At that time Jesus said, " I praise you Father ,

Lord of heaven and earth , because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

I was excited about what I was learning and what the Lord was revealing to me. Something that was hidden but found by me.

We protect this treasure because in this world it can be taken from us.

What can take away this treasure that I have discovered

Christ begins his teachings in the same chapter with the parable of the sower.

-Hard ground: The seed is taken away immediately. This is about hardened hearts that do not want to hear the Word or accept the good news about Jesus Christ and this new life that he has in store for us. It is when the Word or this treasure is rejected because someone would not allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the Truth to them.

- Rocky ground: This plant quickly withers away because it could not get its roots to run deep and this is when we lose the Truth because of all of the bad things that happen in this world. Our focus is the trials and we forget that we have a treasure that is far greater than what we are going through on this earth.
- Thorns: This the word that is strangled by the cares and riches of this earthly life. We can become too intertwined in this world, we can love this world and its happenings to such a point that we forget the eternal treasure that was given to us.

So what do we see about this treasure that we need to protect and cherish. This treasure needs to be valued and is something that can taken from us if we don't realize its great worth. We can become too busy with this life that we forget that there is something worth much more.

The second reaction: To be glad about this treasure.

In Acts chapter 8 we read of Philip talking the official of the Ethiopian queen.

The Lord sends Philip from Jerusalem South to Gaza on a lonely road. On this road he meets this Eunuch , an official that was over the protection of the queen's treasure and came to Jerusalem to worship.

This official was reading out of the book of Isaiah.

Philip asked this person if he understood what he was reading. And the piece that he was reading was a prophetic Word that showed to Jesus as the lamb that would be slain. The Eunuch accepted the Word and was led to Christ and baptized right there and then. We read in verse 39: **When he came up of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again , but went on his way rejoicing.**

This man was someone who was officially protecting treasures. But when He discovered this treasure from the Word of Isaiah and the witness of Philip and he could accept Jesus as the lamb that was slain for Him, this treasure made Him rejoice.

It was a treasure that was His. A new treasure greater than the others that he could protect. How happy are you about the treasure that you discovered? Is the fact that you found Jesus something that still fills your heart with joy?

Is it still something that makes you feel excited? I love to feel excited! If we don't have anything to feel excited about then life can seem very boring. We want to look forward to something. We want to be happy about the coming weekend or a wedding that will be happening or a new baby that will be arriving. It makes us feel as if life is worth the living.

Jesus says to His disciples in John 15:9-16

**[9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have**

loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

[15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.15.9-16.NIV>

What are we happy about?

We are happy because we have found true love. We found a love that does not only transform us but changes the way that we love others. A Treasure that is worth much more than anything this earth can give us.

3. The third reaction to this treasure is that everything is sold to be able to attain this treasure.

In Revelation 3: 18 we read the following: 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold  
refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may  
clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to  
anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

There is something that this treasure can do for you that no other treasure can do. This gold is refined, it is holy. A life with Christ may not be the easiest life on this earth but it is a life that sanctifies you. This treasure that you discovered is the treasure that saved you from the sin that you were born into. It opens your eyes to see where true life really is.

If I remember this treasure that I discovered and I hid in my innermost being and I let it grow and bear fruit in my life , and I find my joy in it like Paul said in Philipians 4: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always, even when sitting in prison like Paul was when he wrote those words , even when I hear of wars and even if I find myself in a war, I know that the treasure that I have is of eternal value. And I am ready to give up anything for what I have discovered. Nothing can compare with it.

Open Doors International's World watch list gives us the following statistics; plus minus 4400 to 5000 Christians die for their faith each year. That means that 12 to 13 Christians around the world die for this treasure that they discovered daily. More than 380 Million Christians experience high levels of persecution and discrimination right across the globe. Thousands are captured and imprisoned, abused and thrown out of their homes each year.

The Kingdom of heaven is worth everything, even your life.

I shared this message with the boy who asked me the question about the Kingdom of heaven. And after hearing this message he had a wonderful response. He said , what do I need to do to get this treasure? I prayed with him and he gave his heart fully to the Lord. Yesterday he was baptized in my pool by his father.

The moment he realized what a great treasure the Kingdom of heaven was, he was willing to let all doubt , all questions, all fear, all unbelief go and he wanted to take possession of this treasure more than anything else.

Can you remember the treasure that you discovered?

Are you cherishing this treasure, hiding it away in your innermost being, being careful to cultivate it, not to let it be taken from you?

Are you joyous about this treasure. Is this treasure something that is still filling you with excitement?

What are you willing to give up for this treasure? Are you valuing it above all earthly treasures? Are you making it your one true desire?

If you answer yes to these questions today, I want you to stand with me.