

Session Three · The Kingdom's Surpassing Worth

The Hidden Treasure · The Pearl of Great Price · The Two Sons

WHAT WE FOUND

Having seen what the Kingdom is, tonight we asked what it is worth. The answer in three parables: everything, and gladly.

The man who finds the treasure and the merchant who finds the pearl both sell all they have, and Jesus notes the man sells all he has “in his joy” (Matthew 13:44). The cost is not a loss but an exchange, trading everything lesser for the one thing that is worth it. The Two Sons then pressed the point home: the son who says “I will not” but goes does the father’s will, while the son who says “I go, sir” but stays does not. Worth is proven by going, not by saying.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine of Hippo (354–430) “You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you” (Confessions I.1). The treasure and the pearl name what that restlessness was always seeking: the one thing worth selling everything for, because nothing less finally satisfies.

St. Gregory the Great (540–604) In his Forty Gospel Homilies (Homily 11, on Matthew 13:44-52), the one who finds the treasure sells all he has “with joy,” because what he gains so far outweighs what he gives that the selling feels like gain.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) Charity is the form of faith: faith without charity is dead, while faith formed by charity is living and issues in action (cf. Summa Theologiae II-II, q. 4, a. 3). The second son’s “I go, sir” is faith unformed; the first son’s going is faith made living.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Name one concrete thing that represents both the “selling” and the “going” at once, a single act that puts the Kingdom above a lesser good you have been holding. Do it this week.
2. Tell one trusted person what you are doing, and ask them to check in with you next week. The Two Sons is not a thought experiment; it is an invitation to move.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Copy it out this week and carry it with you: **Matthew 13:44**

WHAT STAYED WITH ME

One line, an image, or a question from tonight that you do not want to lose:

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read ahead: Luke 15, the whole chapter: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son.

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