

JESUS

FOR LIFE

Jesus Is Priceless

The Treasure and the Pearl

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

Matthew 13:44-46 (NLT)



The Treasure and the Pearl

- The treasure-hunt adventure of Kingdom life
- Caution: This parable is about selling everything we have



The Treasure and the Pearl

- Two parables or one?
- When the Kingdom is like the treasure, what are we like?
- When the Kingdom is like the merchant, what are we like?



The Treasure and the Pearl

- The first part of the parable
 - Excitement, adventure, treasure—life with Jesus!
 - Price to be paid, doubt, fear
- The second part of the parable
 - We can't buy Jesus
 - Jesus has bought us
 - We are free from fear and free for adventure



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything?

Jesus:

- humbled himself
- surrendered control
- obeyed
- endured



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Humbled Himself

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:6-11 (NLT)



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Humbled Himself

“God wants to bring you into union with Himself, but unless you are willing to give up your right to yourself He cannot. (Jesus said) ‘Let him deny himself’—deny his independent right to himself, then the real life has a chance to grow.”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Surrendered Control

"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

John 5:19 (NLT)



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Surrendered Control

- Our giving up control
 - We instinctively resist
 - Rules



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Obeyed

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Luke 22:42 (NLT)



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Obeyed

Obedience is faith in action. When we trust God, we obey God.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT)



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Endured

Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, ..."My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Mark 15:34 (NLT)

"No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:39 (NLT)



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Endured

- We'll always have trials to endure
- What does it mean to endure?
 - To face the worst and still trust Jesus to love us, provide for us, and give our lives meaning
 - Faith means believing that God is my Father and friend in spite of all the evidence to the contrary
 - Enduring means hope



What Does It Look Like to Sell Everything? Jesus Endured

...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Hebrews 12:1b-3 (NLT)



Jesus Is Priceless

- We are the pearl
- On the cross Jesus completed God's rescue plan
- The eternal adventure starts now
- All it costs us is everything



Invitation

Moving Yourself toward Jesus

- Think about the treasure-hunt adventure you are on with Jesus. What treasure do you long for?
- How is Jesus calling you to continue “selling everything you own”? Humble yourself? Surrender control? Obey? Endure? Something else?

Moving Others toward Jesus

- Tell someone about the treasure-hunt adventure you’re on with Jesus.

