

Friday, June 26, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"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.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Matthew 13: 44-46

I am horrible at shopping at Yard Sales. That's probably because I never do it! But if I did do it, I know I would be horrible at it! Some people enjoy going to "thrift" shops, or shops that sell antiques, or things like that. They have a way of recognizing items that have value or worth.

There's a TV show where people will have an expert examine some item, a piece of furniture, or a piece of artwork, and the expert will tell the person what it's worth. Often times the person who brings the item in question is amazed at the expert's appraisal. Their amazement can go one of two directions: they can be amazed at how MUCH their item is worth, or they can be amazed at how LITTLE their item is worth. But it takes an expert to tell them.

We need an Expert to tell us the value of what we are focused on in life. Any guesses as to Who this Expert might be? Yep. You got it! It's Jesus! He's the One who has an eye for what has great value and what does not. Jesus tells us that if we are investing in "the kingdom of heaven," we are investing in a thing of great value. He also tells us that if our only investment, or our biggest investment, is in the things of this life and this world, then we are investing in something that isn't worth all that much.

People are often surprised to hear that if their biggest investment, or their only investment, is this world and this life, that they are investing in the wrong thing. It's like those people on the TV show who need the expert to tell them that the piece of art that they own is practically worthless, or that it's worth a lot more than they even imagined.

In the parable above, Jesus talks about a man who somehow had a knack for knowing what had value and what did not. He found a single pearl that had great value. In fact, it had enough value that he sold everything he owned just to be able to buy that one pearl. Do you have this kind of eye when it comes to the Kingdom of God? Let me ask it another way. Have you figured it out yet that nothing in this life matters more than your relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ? The reason nothing matters as much as your relationship with God is that nothing in this life will last forever except your relationship with God.

Don't feel embarrassed if this is the first time you're hearing this. The only reason I know this to be the case is that I listened to an Expert on more than one occasion who told me that the most important thing in life is my relationship with God through faith in Jesus. That Expert, of course, is Jesus.

God's peace!
Pastor Jim