

“Red Letter Words: The Treasure”

Matthew 13:44-50

Ray Cortese, March 8/9, 2014

Reflect on the Text

*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 13:44-50. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Can you recall a time in your life when you said or felt, “There has to be something more”?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE TREASURE DISCOVERED

- 3 What is the difference between the first and second parable Jesus tells in these verses? Which man were you more like, the one who tripped over the treasure or the one who was looking for it?
- 4 Ray said, our culture tries to convince us that we can be satisfied with things that don’t satisfy – like trying to live on a diet of cotton candy. What are the competing “treasures” of this world that can distract us from the true treasure of the kingdom?

THE TREASURE APPRAISED

- 5 Read and discuss Philippians 3:8-9
- 6 The person who has made a proper appraisal of the kingdom treasure is able to say about even the worst circumstance, "It's the best thing that ever happened to me." What is something you experienced that was difficult at the time, but now you see how God used it to draw you closer to Himself?
- 7 Ray asked, "Does Jesus make you sing?" How would you answer? Do you actually sing in weekend worship? Why or why not?

THE TREASURE APPREHENDED

- 8 Ray said, "You can't claim, 'I love Jesus, but parts of the Bible I don't accept.' God's word has evaluative authority over your thinking; you don't have evaluative authority over it." What parts of the Bible do people call into question today? What might it cost those who refuse to compromise the truth of the Word?
- 9 How does Jesus and the gospel motivate us to sell all for the Kingdom?
- 10 Discuss the following quote by Jim Elliot: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Final Reflections

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?