

## Heart Matters, Buying the Field (Part 5)

### Small Group Questions [audio](#) or [transcript](#))<sup>1</sup>

*We've been attempting to answer the question, "why don't we have an insatiable desire to know and pursue God with everything in us?" We've explored our tendency toward turning good things into god things (idolatry), our own over confidence (pride) and have used how we view our money and opportunities to help us identify what is preventing us from pursuing God more fully. We have found that we need a change in the way that we view the world - from transient to eternal. We develop a palate for God & eternal things when we have tasted and seen the the Lord is good and that His steadfast love is indeed better than life.<sup>2</sup> We must begin to see God as far greater than anything that currently vies for our attention and affection. This will never be accomplished by trying to make those things lower - this only happens when God is portrayed as He really is - majestic, ultimate, sovereign, supreme, mighty! When we begin to see God as so superior and above other things, we will be begin to see Him as the treasure that He really is. What we treasure is where our heart is, and where our heart is drives our affections, disciplines and pursuits.*

1. How would you describe the kingdom of God? (See Matthew 13:44-46)
2. Would you describe your faith as being governed primarily by the rule and reign of God in your heart or by moral obedience?
3. What stands out to you more in this passage, the cost & sacrifice associated with acquiring the kingdom or the infinite value & worth of the kingdom?
4. Why is it that we don't naturally see the great value of the treasure and the pearl (the kingdom of God)?
5. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to buy the field because of its extreme value? Do you see joy as an important motivator in your faith? Is joy something that interests you?

#### **Summary:**

*We must wrestle with this passage. We must honestly assess whether we see the kingdom is a treasure and the King is the greatest jewel or we will never chase after God. He will be just another one of the many other things that vie for our hearts affections and focus. Faith will always be a struggle until we have a shift in the way that we view Him and His kingdom. The gospel is that you get God. "God made us: invented us as a man invents*

a machine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human race to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”<sup>3</sup> We often times struggle in our faith and find it dry and growth difficult; “the greatest hindrance to our deep transformation and spiritual growth is the smallness of our desire. We trifle with the “mud pies” of lust and greed, when we could enjoy a “holiday at the sea” or, to use biblical language, “pleasures at God’s right hand forevermore” (Ps. 16:11). We are content to play with Monopoly money when we could have eternal treasure. We desperately try to drink from broken cisterns, while neglecting the Fountain of Living Waters (Jeremiah 2:11–13).”<sup>4</sup>

God causes this shift, there is no secret handshake or formula. Our faith is supernatural in nature so it is no surprise that God is the author of this desire in our hearts. This does not exonerate us from responsibility, though. We have to understand that our “biggest problem is not that we desire to be happy when we ought to be more concerned about doing our duty. This is not Jesus’ diagnosis of human need. Our biggest problem is our blindness to the source of true joy. We need opened eyes and a renewed heart so that we will desire what is truly satisfying!”<sup>5</sup> Let us, like Paul, “press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”<sup>6</sup> We must look deep within our hearts and ask ourselves hard questions about what we really find of ultimate value. So will you buy the field because it is the only place that ultimate contentment, rest and happiness is found?

### Application:

- Find some time in a quiet place and ask God to reveal what is keeping you from seeing the kingdom for the treasure that it really is. Ask yourself if you really believe that ultimate contentment, rest, and happiness is found in being reconciled with God.
- Do you find your delight to be in God or in riches, recreation and relationships? Honestly assess where desire comes from. (Psalm 37:4, Psalm 27:4)

### Recommended Resources:

*The Kingdom of Heaven is a Treasure* by John Piper (message)<sup>7</sup>

*Conversion to Christ: the Making of a Christian Hedonist* by John Piper (message)<sup>8</sup>

*The Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Value* by Geoff Ashley (bible study/message)<sup>9</sup>

*God is the Gospel* by John Piper (book)

*Christ Formed in You* by Brian Hedges (especially Chapter 9, The Quest for Joy: Motivation) (book)

*One Thing: Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God* by Sam Storms (book)

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<sup>1</sup> Audio: [http://media.thevillagechurch.net/sermons/audio/200706230900HVWC21ASAAA\\_MattChandler\\_HeartMattersPt5-BuyingTheField.mp3](http://media.thevillagechurch.net/sermons/audio/200706230900HVWC21ASAAA_MattChandler_HeartMattersPt5-BuyingTheField.mp3)

Transcript: [http://media.thevillagechurch.net/sermons/transcripts/200706230900HVWC21ASAAA\\_MattChandler\\_HeartMattersPt5-BuyingTheField.pdf](http://media.thevillagechurch.net/sermons/transcripts/200706230900HVWC21ASAAA_MattChandler_HeartMattersPt5-BuyingTheField.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” (Psalms 34:8 ESV); “Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.” (Psalms 63:3 ESV)

<sup>3</sup> C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 1952)

<sup>4</sup> Hedges, Brian G. (2010). *Christ Formed in You* (Kindle Locations 3125–3129). Shepherd Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Hedges, Brian G. (2010). *Christ Formed in You* (Kindle Locations 3097–3116). Shepherd Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” (Philippians 3:12 NIV)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/the-kingdom-of-heaven-is-a-treasure>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/conversion-to-christ-the-making-of-a-christian-hedonist>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.thevillagechurch.net/sermon/treasure-and-pearl/>