

Luke 15: 1 – 10

“Searching for Treasure”

Introduction ...

A couple of weeks ago, there was a piece on the news about Detectorists ... those who go hunting for treasure. Actually, the news was really ‘treasure and the legal definition of treasure.’ This legal definition is about to change. Currently it centres too much on gold or silver and not on the significance of what has been discovered – even if made of bronze or pottery.

Gospel passage ...

Searching is a key theme of our New Testament reading ... and there the treasure is just **one** sheep out of 100 or **one** coin out of 10 ... and we’re told that this illustrates the attitude of God.

Earthquake rescues ...

Maybe the pictures we saw recently of rescue efforts after the earthquake in Turkey and Syria can help us to understand more.

Recall the massive international effort that was mobilized to help the search and rescue work Teams from Mexico, Japan, the UK – and many other nations. People pulling at rubble with their bare hands.

Great attention to working together ...

And as soon as there was any possibility of life ... everything else stopped to enable a focus on one tiny area of the widespread devastation.

Recall, too, the massive and heartfelt rejoicing when a person was brought out alive.

And this is how God reacts – how the angels in heaven react to one needy person turning to God and finding their home with God. Life – a new kind of life – is found.

Conclusion ...

Holding together those two parables of Jesus with the scenes of earthquake rescue gives much for us to reflect on.

What do you most treasure?

What would you spend immense effort to find if you had lost it?

How does this relate to Jesus and his love for you?

PTO

Years and years ago I did a 30 day retreat. As part of this, all on the retreat were encouraged to 'live through Holy Week, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day – with Jesus and his first disciples.'

It was a life changing experience. I remember in particular Holy Saturday ... the day between Good Friday and Easter Day.

The desolation was immense ...

All hope and relationship with Jesus – gone.

A very deep reminder to me that my treasure is Jesus. And nothing else comes close!

What's your treasure?

And how do we regard ourselves and other people?

For these parables are clear that we are God's treasure.

Let's have a few moments of quiet to reflect on these questions ...

What is your treasure?

What is your response to God, knowing that you are God's treasure?