

7-29-84 (1)

How much is it worth to you to have the Spirit of the living God within your life. How much would you be willing to give if you knew for sure you could have his kingdom within you?

A cartoon has a tramp saying to a fellow hobo: "I'd give a 1000 dollars to be one of them millionaires" And that expresses a truth about many of us. We give a thousand dollars worth of effort and wish for a million in return.

Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. Picture it, if you will. a man has been hired to plow the field. The day is hot the work hard, and he is tired. Suddenly his plow strikes something hard. Another rock he scowls wearily. So he digs a little, it is not a rock it is large wooden box. His pulse quickens. He furiously uncovers the box until he can open the lid. He opens it and he audibly gasps. The box is a treasure. Gold and diamonds, silver and rubies...more wealth than he has] ever seen. He looks quickly around to see if anyone is observing. All is clear. He recovers the box, the land is not his...what will he do. He will sell everything he has everything and buy the field....The kingdom of God is like that Jesus says.

It is like a pearl of great price. The picture is vivid.

A dealer in precious stones is visiting a small fishing village. He has heard of a family who has made an unusual find... a large and beautiful pearl. The dealer stops at the home of the family, they show him their new treasure. The dealer can hardly believe his eyes... never has he seen such a large and perfect pearl. He must have it... even if it costs him everything, he must have it... he sells everything, his shops, his home, his cow... everything... because he knows that the pearl is of surpassing worth.

The kingdom of God is like that, Jesus says.

How much would you give for utter and complete peace and joy. Suppose all your worry and stress could melt away. How much would that be worth to you?

A stuntman stretched his rope across the Niagra Falls and announced he was going to walk both ways. the crowd gathered when he made it one side the crowd applauded, he started back and everyone applauded when he made it.. People who said it couldn't be done became believers. Then he took a wheelbarrow and walked the wheelbarrow across. By this time every one was a believer. Then he asked, "Now before I take the wheelbarrow back, I'm going to ask for a volunteer. Who will ride in the wheelbarrow?" Well, the applauding believers drew back. But one young child came forward and climbed in to the wheelbarrow. She trusted. "Of course" someone observed, "the little girl trusts him because he is

Schuller

her father".

Don't you wish you had that kind of faith and trust in God? Wouldn't that be worth everything? (3)

Here's Ann Sothern. A few years ago she had an illness which left her emotion ally broken . . . "nerves strikingly sensitive to the slightest disturbance. Ordinary fears were magnified.....I was so tortured with self-doubt that I was sure I could never again make eve normal decisions, much less face the cameras...at that point I had to reach out for something beyond ordinary faith, or persih". She knew that fear was killing her, she knew too that she must replace fear with faith. Simply she prayed, asking for faith and strength. Immadiate release did not come, but prayer showed her other steps she could take. One souce was spiritual reading...and while reading she read in Proverbs (3:6) words which spoke to her condition: "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy path". She needed to find God's will. But what about her self fear? One day her daughetr was scared over a school exam, and Ann said to her: "What makes you thin God has deserted you when you need him?" And in those words she realized she was saying a word of God to herself...she found the Word coming thru a letter penned hundreds of years ago: "I can do all thing thru Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13)

How much is such peace worth? . . . what would you give for
it? (4)

One opening night before Enrico Caruso became famous, he was overcome by stage fright. As he stood in the wings, his throat contracted with a spasm of terror. Sweat poured from him, he nearly ran out. . . but Suddenly a thought struck him: "the little me on the outside us strangling the big me on the inside . . . the me that wants to sing, that can sing... must get out.

He began a whispered shout: "Get out of the way, Get out, get out...." The stagehands were frightened, and other members of the cast wondered if Caruso had gone batty. But by the time his cue came, the little me had been routed and the big me was in command. And that performance launched Caruso to fame.

A powerful force had been placed in Caruso and only when he recognized that a weak force was holding it back and acted on that knowledge . . . did the stronger one come thru.

Now there is undoubtedly a big you within you waiting to be liberated....but there is little you holding it back... wouldn't you like for God to help you set free all that potential for good that he has placed within you?

God's peace, His power, his purpose. Here is the reason our lives are often empty and destitute. We do not know

why we are near. What have our lives got to do with the kingdom of heaven. The answer is everything. We are created by a loving God for a divine purpose. We are not worms nor orphans...we are God's own people. 5

Paul Tournier once wrote:

In my childhood I had already come to know God, quite naively, of course; nevertheless, I thank God for those who led me to him. Yet, it took a revolutionary experience in order for this knowledge to go beyond the abstract nature of a few ideas about God, however right those ideas might have been. I had to meet him in the full activity of adulthood, thru dialogue with inspired men. They put my real life, my home, and my medical work under the light of God. Ever since, Jesus Christ has become my unseen companion of every day, the witness of all my successes AND all my failures, the confidant of my rejoicings and my times of sadness. It is in this ~~shared~~ life shared with him that the knowledge of God is continuously strengthened and sharpened. All that I can hope, when my time for action will be over, is that I may yet go further in the riches of this knowledge".

There is a man who discovered a pearl of great price.

There is a man who has found treasure buried in a field.

"Jesus Christ has become my unseen companion of every day"

There it is. His peace, his power, his purpose.

What is it worth to you? The wise among us will say
...."everything".