

JESUS: A HIDDEN TREASURE AND A COSTLY PEARL

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; **and from joy over it he goes and sells everything that he has**, and buys that field."

Matthew 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, **he went and sold everything that he had and bought it**."

The example of Paul:

Philippians 3:3-9 ".....for weworship in the Spirit of God and take pride in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh, **although I myself could boast as having confidence even in the flesh**. If anyone else thinks he is confident in the flesh, **I have more reason**: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteous which is in the Law, found blameless."

"But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted **as loss because of Christ**. More than that, **I count all things to be loss** in view of **the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish**, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a **righteousness of my own** derived from the Law, but that which is through **faith in Christ...**"

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Apparently, Jesus is first place or no place: Luke 14:26 If you want to be my disciple, you must, **by comparison**, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters---yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." -(NLT)
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More advice (commands ??) from Philippians 3:

v. 13but one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

v.18 **...please do not follow** "the many who walk of whom I have often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, **whose god is their appetite**, whose glory is in their shame, **who have their minds set on earthly things**. **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ....."