



Sermon Notes: “Jesus is Worth Everything”

Matthew 13:44-46

8.16.26

BIG IDEA

We do not buy Christ. Christ purchased us.

Joy changes the way we calculate cost

- Is following Jesus really worth it?
- Why does discipleship feel like loss?
 - Some acts of obedience hurt.

Joy is what makes surrender possible

- Resentment grows when we stare so long at what we surrendered that we lose sight of what we possess.

Counting the cost means counting both sides

- The Kingdom Christ offers reorders our treasures
 - It speaks into major life decisions

So What?

Who needs to hear this?

Those weighing a costly decision

Those who have already lost something

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: The sermon said the real wheat bows low under the weight of real grain, while the dandelion stands tall and proud — because it's hollow and empty. Where have you seen that picture play out in real life — something that looked impressive from the road but turned out to be empty? And where has the opposite surprised you — something small or quiet that turned out to be genuinely full of fruit?

REVIEW: Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 13:44-46 | Philippians 3:8

- Both men in the parable sell everything — but neither is miserable doing it. The sermon said the big idea is this: we do not buy Christ; Christ purchased us. The selling isn't payment — it's the response of someone who finally sees what they've found. Where in your own faith has obedience felt more like grim obligation than joyful response? What's the difference between those two, and what usually determines which one you're operating from?

- Paul says in Philippians 3:8 that he counts everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. The sermon pointed to Matthew — who walked away from a lucrative tax collector's table — and the Rich Young Ruler — who saw the treasure but couldn't let go of his stuff. What is the thing in your life right now that is hardest to hold with a loose grip? What would it take to actually loosen it?

READ: Matthew 6:21 | Hebrews 12:2

- The sermon said resentment grows when we stare so long at what we surrendered that we lose sight of what we possess. Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before him" — the cost was real, but the joy reframed it. Is there something you've surrendered in obedience that you're still staring at? What would it look like to shift your eyes from what you gave up to what you actually have?

- Matthew 6:21 says where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The sermon asked: what do you protect most fiercely? What gets your time, attention, and imagination? Those answers reveal your treasure. Based on your honest answers to those questions — where is your heart actually camped right now? Does that match where you want it to be?

DEPLOY:

1. **Audit Your Treasure.** *This week, honestly answer the sermon's three questions: What do you protect most fiercely? What gets your time and attention? What fills your imagination? Write down your honest answers — not the spiritual-sounding ones. Then bring them to God and ask Him to reorder what needs reordering. Share one honest answer with your group.*
 2. **Name the Costly Decision.** *If there is a decision in front of you that obedience is making hard, name it to one person in your group this week. Don't make it alone. Let your group count both sides of the equation with you — what you may lose, and what you actually possess in Christ.*
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Don't Forget:

- Consider signing up to help at Church at the Lake on September 6th. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk, or you can sign-up on our Church Website under Events.
 - Back to School Prayer Walk is next Sunday August 23rd at 3:30pm. Go to Joseph, Enterprise or Wallowa School to pray for this upcoming year!
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Prayer:

Father, open our eyes to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. Forgive us for the times we've treated obedience as deprivation — for staring so long at what we surrendered that we forgot what we possess. For those weighing a costly decision, give courage to count both sides honestly. For those grieving what faithfulness has already cost them, give comfort and the settled assurance that it was not ultimate loss. For those who have known Christianity only as obligation — reveal Christ as treasure. Reorder our priorities. Free us from the lesser things we've been gripping. And give us the joy that makes wholehearted surrender not just possible, but the only response that makes sense. Jesus is better. Jesus is worthy. Jesus is enough.

In Jesus' name, Amen.