

# WEEK 4 – THE TREASURE THAT REORDERS EVERYTHING

Anchor Text: Matthew 13:44

This week explores how love awakens desire. We do not change because we are forced. We change because love awakens desire for something better.

## WEEK 4 DAY 1 – Desire Moves Us

### **Scripture**

Matthew 13:44

### **Reflection**

Desire is powerful.

It moves us to do things we would not do otherwise. People sacrifice time, energy, comfort, and convenience because something matters deeply to them. Parents lose sleep for their children. Friends show up for one another. Couples work through hard conversations because they believe something better is possible on the other side of conflict.

If we did not desire better things, we would end every relationship the moment something went against us. We would walk away at the first disappointment, the first misunderstanding, the first painful conversation. But love teaches us to stay, to listen, to forgive, to grow, and to believe that relationship can become deeper than the difficulty.

That is part of what makes Jesus' parable so beautiful. The man does not sell everything because someone threatens him. He does not sacrifice because he is ashamed. He sells everything because he has found treasure.

Desire is what makes sacrifice meaningful. Without desire, sacrifice feels like loss. With desire, sacrifice becomes movement toward treasure. God does not merely call us away from lesser things. He reveals something better. He reveals Himself.

### **Sit With This**

What desire is currently shaping your choices the most?

### **Prayer**

God, awaken in me a deeper desire for You. Help me see that You are not trying to take life from me, but inviting me toward the treasure my soul was made for. Amen.

### **Practice**

Think about one sacrifice you have made because you loved someone or desired something better. Ask God what that reveals about the power of desire.

## Week 4 DAY 2 – What We Treasure Shapes Us

### **Scripture**

Psalm 73:25–26

### **Reflection**

What we treasure begins to shape who we become.

If we treasure approval, we become anxious. We begin measuring ourselves by the reactions of others. If we treasure control, we become tense and fearful. If we treasure comfort, we may avoid the very conversations or growth God is inviting us into. If we treasure success above all else, we may gain achievements while losing peace.

This is why desire matters so much. Desire is not a small part of the spiritual life. Desire reveals what we believe will give us life.

The psalmist says, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” That is not the language of religious obligation. That is the language of someone who has discovered that God is better than everything else trying to claim the heart.

When God becomes our treasure, lesser things begin losing their ultimate power. They may still matter, but they no longer define us. We can enjoy good gifts without asking them to become our god.

This is one of the ways rest becomes possible. We can rest when we no longer need people, possessions, achievement, or control to carry the weight of our identity.

### **Sit With This**

What are you tempted to treat as necessary for your peace or worth?

### **Prayer**

Father, help me see what I have been treasuring most. Reorder my desires so that Your presence becomes the deepest joy of my life. Amen.

### **Practice**

Notice one place today where your emotions reveal what you treasure. Bring that honestly to God.

## Week 4 DAY 3 – God Desired Us First

### **Scripture**

1 John 4:7-10

### **Reflection**

Before we ever desired God, God desired communion with us.

Creation itself came from love overflowing. God did not create minimally, but abundantly. He filled the world with beauty, color, texture, sound, and life because love delights in giving. Humanity was created not as an afterthought, but as the focus of His relational love.

And even after the fall, God did not stop moving toward humanity.

This is one of the most astonishing truths of Scripture: God keeps desiring relationship with people who keep drifting from Him. He calls. He pursues. He forgives. He sends prophets. He gives promises. He comes near in Jesus.

In human relationships, love becomes visible when someone stays and works toward restoration instead of walking away. God's love is seen in this even more beautifully. Humanity resisted Him, misunderstood Him, ignored Him, and rejected Him. Yet God continued moving toward us.

The treasure in Matthew 13 is not only that we discover God.

It is also that God has always desired us. We love because He first loved us.

### **Sit With This**

How does it affect you to think that God desired relationship with you before you desired Him?

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for loving first. Thank You for pursuing humanity even when we wandered from You. Help me receive Your love and respond with love in return. Amen.

### **Practice**

Repeat this truth throughout the day: "God loved first." Let it interrupt moments of shame, fear, or striving.

## Week 4 DAY 4 – Joy Before Surrender

### **Scripture**

Philippians 3:7-10

### **Reflection**

Surrender often sounds frightening when we misunderstand the heart of God.

If we think God is mainly trying to take things from us, surrender feels like loss. It feels like giving up joy, freedom, comfort, or identity. But Jesus describes the kingdom differently.

The man in the field sells everything “in his joy.” Joy comes before the sacrifice.

He is not focused on what he is losing. He is overwhelmed by what he has found.

This is how the gospel reorders us. God does not merely demand that we release lesser things. He opens our eyes to something better. He shows us His beauty, His grace, His peace, His presence, and His love. Then the things we once clung to begin to look smaller in comparison.

Paul says that what he once considered gain became loss compared with knowing Christ. Not because his life became empty, but because Christ became more beautiful.

Real surrender is not empty-handed misery. It is the joyful release of lesser treasures because we have found the One our souls were made for.

### **Sit With This**

Where does surrender feel like loss to you right now?

### **Prayer**

Jesus, help me see Your beauty more clearly. Let joy in You become stronger than my fear of letting go. Teach me to trust that anything You ask me to release is because You are leading me toward life. Amen.

### **Practice**

Name one lesser treasure you have been clinging to. Ask God to show you the better treasure He is inviting you toward.

## Week 4 DAY 5 – Resting in the Better Treasure

### **Scripture**

Matthew 6:19–33

### **Reflection**

Much of our exhaustion comes from chasing things that cannot finally satisfy us.

We chase security, approval, success, comfort, control, recognition, and more. Some of these may be good in their proper place, but none of them can carry the weight of our souls. When we ask created things to give us what only the Creator can give, we become restless.

Jesus invites us to seek first the kingdom of God.

This is not a call to ignore real responsibilities. It is an invitation to live from a re-centered heart. When God becomes our greatest treasure, everything else finds its proper place. We can work without worshipping work. We can love people without needing them to become our savior. We can enjoy blessings without depending on them for identity.

Rest becomes possible when we trust that God is better than what we are chasing.

We can stop striving because we are no longer trying to squeeze life from things that cannot give it.

The treasure of God does not merely ask us to leave things behind. It gives us Someone beautiful enough to move toward.

### **Sit With This**

What are you chasing that may be making your soul tired?

### **Prayer**

Father, help me seek Your kingdom first. Free me from exhausting pursuits that cannot give life. Let my heart rest in You as my greatest treasure. Amen.

### **Practice**

As Sabbath approaches, intentionally release one anxious pursuit into God's hands and rest in His care.