

## Digging For Hidden Treasures

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**READ Luke 11:9-10:** Ask, Seek, Knock.

So I say to you, **Ask** and keep on asking and it shall be given you; **seek** and keep on seeking and you shall find; **knock** and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened.

**Matthew 13:44** Parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

**Share “rock hounding” experience:** Flew from Phoenix to San Diego January 2008, the process of digging for precious gemstones, it was exciting, costly - expense to get there, took time, lots of energy, was hard work, etc.

**The three of us set off that day in January full of joy, hope and great expectation.** We could not get to that mine fast enough! We prepared, at least we thought we had! We made our travel arrangements, made our reservation at the mine as it was required. You could just show up but there was a good chance there would not be room as they only had so many spots available per day, and one could be turned away – we could not take that chance.

When we arrived at the mine in the hills north of San Diego, it was a lovely breezy January morning. We could hardly wait to get our buckets and start mining for this precious gem.

**SHARE process for mining:** Not sure if anyone has ever done this before and knows the process/what it takes to mine precious gems? Let me share just a bit what that is so you have a better understanding of what this looks like. They give you a 5-gallon bucket. There is this huge mound of dirt that is excavated from the mine, that has not been processed; *at least that is what they tell you!* It is positioned in the middle of everyone, so we all have access to it. We each have a “station” that is yours for the day. It consists of two screens that sit on top of each other to sift the dirt through with a tray of water next to them to clean the rocks. The water is filthy, the dirt is what it is: dirt and dirty! There are about 50 of these individual stations surrounding the huge mound of dirt in the middle, with all of our stations positioned in a circle around it.

You go and fill your bucket with dirt from the huge mound. You lug your bucket of dirt back to your screens and you pour it into the top screen that sits on bottom screen that catches the dirt. And then you start shaking the top screen over the bottom, shifting, shaking until the “dirt” is sifted through (**our sin is exposed**). If you find anything (**our sin**) you use the water (**washing of the Word**), which is set up next to you to wash it. If you think you found anything, they have “experts” to help identify anything of worth/value (**Holy Spirit**), who you can ask if what you have is “real.” They come to your “station” and confirm what you found: if it is real or not (**confirm truth**). If you find nothing, you have to empty your bottom screen and you continue this process through out the day (**until all sin is exposed and removed from within us**).

**Back to this day of great expectations!** At first we are so excited, full of hope and expectation. No way did we get disappointed because the first bucket, or even many after, did not have this “priceless treasure/rock” that we set out to find. **We are not expecting to NOT find it.** We get our 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> buckets, still nothing. Still not the least bit discouraged or not expecting to not find our “treasure” that we are determined to find. **Along the way we get a nugget** – we find something shiny or unusual, a moment of excitement that motivates us to continue with fervency! Now 12, 13, 18 buckets later, the sun has now shifted to early afternoon, there is now a chill in the air, we have a flight to catch and cannot miss. We only have a couple more hours at best. **Still nothing!** At this point we are tired and fading fast, somewhat discouraged, actually really discouraged! We were just sure we would have found our “treasure” by now!

**This work is grueling, dirty, painful, messy, and there is nothing easy about it. Actually, it is not fun anymore. We have lost our excitement!** Do you know how heavy a 5-gallon bucket of dirt is? At first it seems like no big deal. This is not too bad you tell yourself. But after hours of lugging it back and forth it feels like dead weight! By this time we are covered in dirt/mud – our clothes, our faces, our hands. Our muscles are sore and ever so weak (**what happens under God’s discipline**). We are not even willing to admit it to each other yet (**our pride**). If you were fortunate enough to know to bring gloves it helped. If not, your hands were raw from “digging”.

**The process is hard and messy.** The shaking/sifting of dirt, the water, it all gets on you. It is impossible to stay clean. We are a filthy mess while going through the process of trying to find our “treasure.” At this late time in the day, we still have a flicker of hope. We tell ourselves, one more bucket, it just has to be in the next bucket! We muster up all our faith and strength. Instead of running to the mound of dirt, we are now slowly limping there. **What is amazing there is actually still a determination inside of us that will not let us give up.** So we fill our buckets a few more times to no avail and finally give up feeling defeated, so discouraged. We cannot believe we just spent all this money, time and energy to work like a slave, to be achy, so tired to no avail, with no “treasure” to take back with us. **By now the hour is late.** We have to head back to the airport to catch our flight back to Phoenix.

**We realize now that we did not come prepared on yet another level!** Our clothes are a filthy mess, covered in dirt/dry mud. If we had been prepared, we would have brought a change of clothes (**Yeshua cleanses us from our filth, and we learn how to dress ourselves in our wedding garments**). **This is how we arrived back at the airport:** covered in our filth, our bubbles burst, with reality setting deep within. But at the same time, not one of us is regretting we had this adventure. We learned so much. While waiting for our flight, we are sure we are terrifying the other passengers (**other believers who do not understand the refiner’s fire and what one must go through**). They don’t know why we are covered in dirt, and to be honest, at this time we just don’t care (**speaks of our humility when our sin is exposed and call it what it is – sin**). We just want to get on that flight, get home and have a long hot bath or shower and be clean again (**let the Lord wash away our sin now that we can see it the way He does!**)

**WHY I SHARE:** I found this experience amazing on so many levels and it was not only until April 13, 2013, over 5 years later, that the Lord started to reveal to me how this directly relates in our walk with Him, and how we are to become like Him. I was stunned when He started speaking to me about this after all these years. I had written this experience off as, “glad I did it,” but nothing I would ever desire to do again. And then that one Friday afternoon while reading the above scripture **Luke 11:9-10** He started reminding me of this experience. I had forgotten about it.

**IT STARTED WITH A DESIRE:** to find this gem that was more precious than diamonds (**ASK**)  
So like our relationship with the Lord, we have to desire to want to know Him, to find Him.

**Physical action required:** inquired of logistics, how to get there, time needed, make travel arrangements, make preparations, made reservation to mine (**ASK**)

**All of this required, that we ask.** It is the same in our relationship with the Lord Yeshua. If we have this desire to know Him, it will only propel us to start asking to want to know Him more. Moses cried out in **Exodus 33:13** *Show me your ways that I may know you.* He asked. **It was not something that was “automatic”.** Moses understood God’s nature and knew to ask.

**COSTLY FINANCIALLY:** flight/car rental, had to pay a “fee/price” to “dig” for this hidden gem (**SEEK**).

**If we want to know Him, there is a price to be paid.** It will cost us everything. We had to pay a “fee” to be able to mine for this “treasure.” How much more so for our King Yeshua? He requires all of us: a surrendered heart that will obey Him no matter what the cost. He will prove our heart to see if we really want Him – all of Him, meaning to be in an intimate bridal love relationship with Him. Or are we only interested in a casual relationship? Are we just happy with getting “saved?” If we want all of Him and are serious about pursuing Him wholeheartedly, it comes at a high price that very few are willing to pay.

**COSTLY PHYSICALLY/EMOTIONALLY:** It required lot of energy, it was hard work, we had to overcome discouragement and keep hoping that the next “bucket” would have the hidden gem/treasure (**KNOCK**).

**Why so few are willing to pay the price. It is hard work and a process:** it takes discipline, commitment, and sacrifice on every level in our lives: spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially. It means not giving up when everything in us screams that we cannot do this one more second longer! It means praying when we don’t feel like praying. It means fasting when we are hungry. It means loving the unlovable people who the Lord puts in our path, loving them in His way and not ours – sacrificial love, dying to self.

**Why we have to keep knocking, asking the Lord for much grace, strength and wisdom to become like Him.** We need to die to self, to let the lower nature go, to keep knocking until He opens the doors of our hearts so we can become like Him in word, thought and deed. We do this by allowing Him to expose our sin/character flaws and purify us, so we can love Him as He deserves.

We will find in the process of trying to find our priceless “treasure,” the Prize, our Beloved Bridegroom Yeshua, that at first

it seems so easy, because we really do not understand all that we have asked for (**Luke 14: count the cost**). We start with such zeal/passion in our seeking. Along the way, the storms, trials and fiery trials of afflictions come. Some are easier to weather than others, but all are taking their toll on us, either for good or for bad, and that choice will be ours. If we weather them according to His Word, His perfect love, they are purifying us, maturing us, causing us to be like our Lord Yeshua (**1 Peter 1:22**). They are qualifying us for the PRIZE, to be His Bride, one who will be without spot or wrinkle, today on this earth!

Make no mistake; this search for our “treasure” is hard work, often painful, full of disappointment, with much rejection, persecution and many opportunities for discouragement to set in. Many times we will want to quit as we just feel so tired, so worn out. We just feel like we cannot go on for one more second – the pain feels too great at times. But this spark/His flame in our hearts won’t let us quit – it is a wonderful thing and only He can do this in us by giving us grace to overcome. There is a determination within us that must know Him no matter what the cost, even if we die in the process trying. We must know Him, the Lover of our soul. His perfect love nudges on, keeps us moving deeper into His love and higher into His ways, as we go lower by dying to self, by being clothed in His humility and meekness, so He can reveal Himself to us.

**If we continue to say YES to our Bridegroom**, if we do not grow weary and faint not, in due season we shall reap a reward and knowing Him and being all that He created us to be in Him is the reward. It is to become His Bride. He is fighting for us and has given us everything we need to be victorious in Him by giving us the Holy Spirit (**Colossians 1:27**). I cannot emphasize enough, that it will cost you everything – He is after and will only accept a Bride whose heart is undivided towards Him.

I encourage you, if this is your desire, and if this is what you desire above everything: to know our Bridegroom King, to stand alongside His high and lofty noble side and fight this battle with Him, to be made worthy of Him to be His Bride – then anything that you hold dear (family, friends, reputation, intellect/your own wisdom), hold it loosely, and be willing to surrender if the Master would ask. Because I promise you that at some point, He will ask those who are called and chosen to be His Bride, to forsake all for His love’s sake. His Bride will not value anything of her own, for she loves not her own life unto death, if that is what He requires of her, but she loves fervently everything that is of His Kingdom to see Him alone glorified.

Don’t misunderstand me. The Lord is not against our having things, but He will test our hearts to see if we put anyone or anything above Him. He must test our heart on every level to see if we will be faithful to Him alone, and be found worthy of Him. Paul said to walk worthy of the call by which we were called (Ephesians 4:1). All are called to be His Bride, but few will be chosen (Matthew 22:14). We get to decide if we will be chosen or not, by the choices we are willing to make, whether to do His will or to insist on doing our will. He gives all the same opportunity. His Bride will have many resources, some giving much wealth to accomplish His purposes. But He will do so with those He proves to be worthy, who will use those resources strictly for His eternal Kingdom purposes to be manifested here on earth.

**CLOSING:** We find another very important thing that is taking place between us and our Bridegroom. In the process of asking, seeking, knocking to know Him – there is something that is taking place in us and transforming us. Just like in the natural, the “rock hounding” experience I shared, and how we ended up covered in filth, we will become covered in filth. It will be that our sins exposed, as well as things that are in our life that are displeasing to our King. If we think we have no sin then we make Him a liar, and the truth is not in us.

**1 John 1:8-10** *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

**As we dig in that huge mound of dirt (our sin), looking for Him, the Prize/Treasure**, not yet realizing just how covered in dirt/filth we are, our sin is no longer covered and hidden in the inside recesses of our dark hearts. It cannot stay there anymore. We don’t want it to anymore. If we want to truly know and become like Him, it will all be uncovered, and no longer hidden. Personally speaking, at times it will be humiliating, ugly, messy, embarrassing, and so painful as we see our sin the way He does. Sometimes it can feel degrading to us. It will not be easy, and actually, it will often be hard. Some things we did not even know needed to be corrected, because we honestly did not know what pleased our Bridegroom. We didn’t know, often because we never made the time to get to know Him intimately. We may know of Him, but to know Him is totally different! **In the process of knowing Him, we change, wanting to please Him and wanting to become more and more like Him.**

**Matthew 7:13-14** *Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

If we say “yes,” and do it according to His Word/ways, we will find ourselves covered in our filth – it is finally exposed. We will finally get to the point where we no longer care what man thinks of us, as our pride must go (airport/other passengers). We just have to be transparent, bare-naked with the Lover of our soul. We will confess our sin and call it sin and ask to be cleansed. Why it is so important that we are transparent and confess our sins, as often as needed. It is not a one-time event. Equally important, that when our sin is exposed, we should not let it cause us shame or condemnation – we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). But instead, we should simply confess it, and ask the Blood of the Lamb to cleanse us.

**Zechariah 3:3-4 Like Joshua the High Priest.** Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

Joshua’s garments were covered in filth; this is not saying he was in a state of sin. He was covered in the sins of the people. I am only using this as a picture for you. He was in a position of High priest, just like our Lord Yeshua, and he took upon himself the sins of the people. Once a year on Yom Kippur, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the people before the Mercy Seat. Only when we see and acknowledge our sin and call it sin, as our High Priest Yeshua does, and confess it to Him, only then can He cleanse us with His blood and clothe us in His righteousness. He can clothe us in new clean garments. But we have our role, which is to keep our garments clean, to learn how to dress ourselves in our wedding garments. This signifies our purity, holiness, righteousness, just and Godly living, deeds and conduct with God. It requires all of these and much more, especially our obedience. “If you love Me, you will obey Me” (**John 14:15**).

His Bride won’t want her sin to be hidden anymore – she will despise it, wanting to be purified no matter how costly or how painful it may seem to her at the time. She will settle for nothing less than to be without spot or wrinkle, beautiful for her Bridegroom on her Wedding Day. In the “rock hounding experience” I shared, at the end of it all, we could not all wait to get home, bathe and be in clean clothes again! This speaks of the desire of the Bride’s heart – to be pure before the One she loves.

**There are these rare, priceless gems that are buried in our hearts that He is wanting to polish, clean and make shiny and new again.** It takes us agreeing to want what He wants, how He wants it, when He wants it. It is not about our trying to find a shortcut or to manipulate the situations that He allows into our lives to purify and correct us. He does this so that He can show us what His requirements are – so that ultimately, we do NOT MISS HIM!

**Make no mistake; our Bridegroom’s requirements are high.** He will not lower His standards for us. We must come higher, into alignment with His holy standards. The Church has sadly gotten so far from Truth – far from holiness, and at large, has lost the Fear of the Lord. She is full of filth and compromise. We must be a hearer and doer of the Word (James 1:22-25).

Our Bridegroom’s eyes are searching for hearts that are TOTALLY surrendered to Him. He defines what TOTAL surrender looks like, NOT us. His qualifications are pure and holy, and He cannot tolerate ANY mixture with the ways of this world. It is a process. It takes time for the Bride to make herself ready, and time is quickly running out.

He is only interested in a Bride that is passionately, head-over-heels in love with Him alone. A Bride who will share Him with NO OTHER lovers, and one who has an undivided heart for Him alone. He desires a Bride who will know Him intimately. Nothing else will satisfy her heart. This takes time. In the choices we make, are we willing to let the low life, i.e., the love of the world, go? Are we willing to become ever so peculiar creatures by the world’s standards? We say yes, but do we really mean it? Our actions show whether we do or do not mean it, when we are faced with the tough decisions. Or when confronted with a simple request that the Bridegroom is asking of us, such as giving up certain things in order to know Him more intimately. These things include TV shows/entertainment, worldly magazines, trashy books, secular music that is full of demons and demonic influences, and influences of the world. It could be as simple as: Will you give up your sleep and go minister to someone in the hospital in the middle of the night, when He asks? It is not always necessarily sin that I am talking about. **These are choices of obedience that will either move us deeper in Him or will keep us right where we are at – we decide.** He will never go against our free will.

**I share this with only one purpose. To provoke you to go deeper in prayer, deeper in intimacy, deeper in purity, deeper into His truth, deeper in humility.** To not settle for the low life/this world’s fatal systems. To not let Satan rob your high and lofty destiny that God has for each and every one of you! To provoke you to examine your thought, word and action life, as never before, before the Holy Lord God Almighty. To ask Him to show you your sin the way He sees it. To cause you to want what He wants for you – to really want it! To realize that anything else is a counterfeit and a rip-off for what He has planned for you.

I will continue to build on what I have shared next week and how it directly relates/affects our intimacy with our Bridegroom. How it affects our prayer life and why intercession will be a foundation for His Bride, no matter what your individual call may be. How prayer and purity go hand in hand – impossible to separate the two.

*Notes do not reflect all that was spoken when first taught, but are just that – notes for the author's use to teach from. Therefore, because more detail was shared when spoken, notes have a potential to be misconstrued, pending on the readers level of understanding of the Holy Scriptures, if not understood with all that was spoken.*