

The Great Treasure



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There was a man named Bernard who lived in the village of Ndem-Ndem. He was a hard working Yamba man, and he was very intelligent as well. He was married and had four children. He was an honest man and tried to do all that he could to provide for his family and send his children to school. But though he worked very hard and did all that he could, life was difficult for him and his family and he felt that he was always just one step away from poverty.

But one day the fortunes changed for Bernard. He was walking home from his farm and something caught his eye that was shiny. The shiny thing was behind a bush near the path that he was on, so he went over to take a look. To his great surprise, he found that it was a huge diamond, mostly buried but just with its tip showing. He quickly covered it up with dirt, and took note of the place where he saw it.

It was in a plot of land belonging to a man who lived on the other side of the village. That evening he went to see the man on the other side of the village, and asked him if he could buy that plot of land from him. The man was suspicious.

"Why do you want to buy the land from me?" he inquired. "Why not just rent it for a year or two?" But Bernard simply said, "I want to own that land. Name your price. I will try to pay it, even if it is very high." At this the other man grinned. "In that case," he said, "I will sell it to you if you will give me \$300,000cfa for it." Bernard tried to bargain for a somewhat lower price, but the man was adamant. So Bernard went home, deep in thought.

Bernard had about \$70,000 that he had been saving up in hopes that he would someday be able to buy a motorcycle with it. But that would not be enough to buy the land. But then an idea came to him. He went quickly to Jean's house. Jean had been looking around for a bicycle to buy. Bernard had told him the day before that his bike was not for sale. But now he had changed his mind. His bike was still in very good shape. He said to Jean, "Something has come up in my family and I need money now. I am willing to sell you my bike for only \$35,000cfa if you can give me the full amount by sundown tomorrow. Jean was happy to hear this and agreed to the terms.

Next, Bernard went to the house of a young man named Faroc and told him that his cart (pus-pus) was for sale. Faroc had been saving up money to buy a cart. The two discussed the price for a while and agreed to 95,000cfa, if Faroc could give the money by sundown the following day.

Now Bernard went to his wife. He quietly explained to her the situation and told her that he was still short 100,000cfa. She gave him \$15,000 that she had saved up on her own, and then went to some neighbors to see if she could sell them some of her pots and pans. Meanwhile Bernard went to the home of a young man who had been planning on building a house the following dry season. He offered to sell this young man his house for only 80,000cfa if he would give the money by the evening of the following day. The young man agreed. When he got back home his wife had just returned with 15,000cfa that she had gotten for one of her big pots. So now they went to bed, knowing that the next day would determine their future.

The next day went as Bernard had hoped. Each person that he had talked to came with the total amount of money leaving him with a total of 310,000cfa. So he quickly went to the man at the end of the village and presented the money. Then the two of them went to the chief's compound and in the presence of some of the elders of the village and the chief, they wrote up a certificate that confirmed that the plot of land now belonged to Bernard.

That very night, Bernard slipped away to the plot of land and dug up the diamond, which was still there where he had left it. He wrapped it in a cloth and took it home and slept with it beside him. The next morning he traveled to Yaoundé, where he sold it for 20 million cfa.

When he got back to Ndem-Ndem he built a much nicer and larger house for him and his family and bought himself a new bicycle and a new cart, as well as a new motorcycle and a car. He bought his wife all the pots and pans and dishes and clothes that she wanted and paid for all his children's education. And he still had enough money left over to start a small business in the town, and to keep some in savings. He continued to work hard, and deal honestly with people, and he enjoyed the pleasant life that he had.

Matthew 13:44-46 "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". Again, the kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."



Application Questions

1) What are some of the ways that the Kingdom of God is like a treasure in a field?

2) Do you value God's Kingdom more than anything else in your life?

3) Do you *want* to make God's Kingdom the biggest treasure of your life?

4) When you make sacrifices for Jesus, do you do so with joy and excitement or do you feel sorry for yourself or self-righteousness over your giving?

5) Since the Kingdom of Heaven is such a valuable treasure, shouldn't we share it with others around us? What are some ways you can share God's Kingdom with other people?