



Seeing Something Better in Christ

Matthew 16: 25-26

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Hershey Bar (enough for the class to share)
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



Seeing Something Better In Christ

Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson is to study this verse in order to turn our attention away from the things of this world and what seems important in this world, and see Christ as our treasure and our life.

Scripture Reference

Matthew 16: 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Lesson Instructions

1. While listening to a sermon this week, this verse was brought to my attention, and it was such a vivid picture in my mind that I thought we might go over it for our lesson today. I want each of you to turn to this verse for me. Can one of you read it to me? Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
2. Those words may be a bit confusing to you so we are going to talk about what this verse means. Here is what this verse is saying... If you seek the things

of this world - things like good jobs, fame, money, toys and work really hard to gain a wonderful life here on earth, but in the end you lose the gift of spiritual life that is freely given through Christ, what have you gained? IN this verse our Lord asks a question...What does a man gain if he gets all of his heart's desire in this world and then when he dies his soul is lost forever outside of Christ? What will a man or woman give in exchange for their own soul? What are you willing to give in exchange for YOUR own spirit or soul?

3. This is a very important question. The Lord is asking us this question...why? It is in order to get us to think about what is REALLY important during our short time here on this earth. We are going to go over a few examples and stories to help us focus on what this is teaching us.
4. How many of you have ever heard of a mirage? Do you know what it is? It is where you think you see something real but it is just an illusion. It is not really there. This picture is an example of a mirage. (Hold up the photo) The mountain in this picture looks like they are floating in the sky. In fact they don't even LOOK like mountains and hills at all. They almost look like a space ship or maybe a strange airplane, but is what we are seeing really true, or is that just your eyes playing tricks on you? What you see is not really how things are. It is just what they appear to be. THAT is a mirage.
5. What the Lord is teaching us here in this verse is the same concept. Things in this world are a mirage. In fact how we see things in this world and how we think they are wonderful and desirable is just an illusion just like this picture. What we see and THINK is important, is just our hearts and minds and eyes playing tricks on us. We are NOT seeing things clearly. Things seem so big and important in our life here, don't they? What are some things in this world that seem important to us? Some people would say they want to be a famous singer or an actor. The world makes it look like these things are wonderful and important, right? What else looks desirable in this world...to be beautiful, maybe? Or what about to be rich and afford anything you want? How about having and driving a nice car? As we live in this world it SEEMS

like these are really important things to have and achieve. We see people working hard their whole lives, giving up many things just to achieve these goals of success and beauty and power and popularity and fame, but in the end, when you have come to the end of your life and you have to stand before a Holy God and account for your sins against Him... Whoa... all of a sudden those things are not going to seem nearly as important. All of a sudden you will see your whole life was wasted. Why? Can all these things you have worked so hard for save your soul? Or are they a mirage? (Hold up the picture) They are a mirage. They can't save you. This verse is teaching us not to get caught up in working for things that SEEM important. The Lord is showing us how things really are. Listen to the Lord and what He says and teaches. Listen to the faithful gospel preacher the Lord has given you and pray that the Lord reveal to you what is really true so you won't be fooled by the mirage of this world. Christ is the only important thing. Christ is the truth, and to see Christ and what He did and how He died - gave up His life and saved His people from their sins, shows you how things REALLY are...not how this world MAKES them look.

6. How can we see things as they really are? How can we know if what we are seeing is the truth? Ah! That is a great question. The eyes we are born with and the heart and mind we are born with cannot see God and the things of God. God has to give us eyes to see and ears to hear the truth. Pray to God that He will give you the ability to see the truth.
7. I will give you an example by telling you a story. A friend of mine was eating at a restaurant. This restaurant had WONDERFUL food and people drove from all over to eat there. My friend and his wife went in and sat down and began eating. At the table next to them was a cute little boy about two or three years old. He was eating one of the best things that restaurant had to offer; it was a small corn cob on a stick that was boiled in butter and spices. It was just wonderful to taste it. That little boy had eaten that corn cob all the way down to the cob and was still sucking the juice out of it.

8. It came time for the boy and his parents to leave. They went to get his coat on, but you know what happened? He would not let go of that corn cob!!! He loved it! They tried everything! They couldn't even get his coat on him because he wouldn't let go of that cob! Every time they would try and grab the cob he would scream at the top of his lungs. Everybody in the restaurant would look and then his parents would let it go and he would quiet down. They tried to reason with him. They tried to talk with him. They tried everything! This little boy held that ear of corn and by now he is red in the face and sobbing, but he would not turning lose of that ear of corn. He would rather sit there all night than turn loose of it.
9. So finally the owner of the restaurant comes over and he says, "I think I can help you if you don't mind." They said, "We have tried everything. Go ahead." He pulled out a Hershey Bar (Hold up the Hershey bar you brought for the class) and that little boy dropped that corn on the table and immediately reached for that Hershey Bar. HA! THAT is exactly what this verse is forcing us to think about and learn!
10. When does a person consider these things of the world as worthless and nothing? It is when we see something better. (Wiggle the Hershey Bar) When does a person suddenly see this world and the things in it is a mirage? It is when we see something better! Just like that boy letting go of that corn cob for something better - that Hershey bar!
11. Christ IS our something better!!! The scriptures tell you all the way through that Christ is better than the angels. (Hebrews) He is better than the old priesthood. He is better than the law! He is better than all of these things. He is better than all of the kings put together! He is BETTER! He is BETTER!! He is a better sacrifice. By His ONE sacrifice of Himself He put away our sins forever. When are we going to turn loose of the things of this world? It will be when we see something better!!!! Christ Jesus is the Christ of God. He IS something better! Amen

Lesson Activities

- Coloring Sheet
- Snack with Hershey Bar
- Story Telling



Take Home Lesson Overview

Seeing Something Better In Christ

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Matthew 16: 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Lesson Overview:

The Lord is asking us this question...why? It is in order to get us to think about what is REALLY important during our short time here on this earth. If you seek the things of this world - things like good jobs, fame, money, toys and work really hard to gain a wonderful life here on earth, but in the end you lose the gift of spiritual life that is freely given through Christ, what have you gained?

We see people working hard their whole lives, giving up many things just to achieve these goals of success and beauty and power and popularity and fame, but in the end, when you have come to the end of your life and you have to stand before a Holy God and account for your sins against Him all of a sudden those things are not going to seem nearly as important. All of a sudden you will see your whole life was wasted. Why? Can all these things you have worked so hard for save your soul? They are a mirage. They can't save you. This verse is teaching us not to get caught up in working for things that SEEM important. The Lord is showing us how things really are. Listen to the Lord and what He says and teaches. Listen to the faithful gospel preacher the Lord has given you and pray that the Lord reveal to you what is really true so you won't be fooled by the mirage of this world. Christ is the only important thing. Christ is the truth, and to see Christ and what He did and how He died - gave up His life and saved His people from their sins, shows you how things REALLY are...not how this world MAKES them look.

How can we see things as they really are? How can we know if what we are seeing is the truth? The eyes we are born with and the heart and mind we are born with cannot see God and the things of God. God has to give us eyes to see and ears to hear the truth. Pray to God that He will give you the ability to see the truth.

I will give you an example by telling you a story...

Seeing Something Better - by Darvin Pruitt

A man and his wife decided to go out to eat. They picked a local restaurant. This restaurant had WONDERFUL food and people drove from all over to eat there. The man and his wife went in and sat down and began eating. At the table next to them was a cute little boy about two or three years old. He was eating one of the best things that restaurant had to offer; it was a small corn cob on a stick that was boiled in butter and spices. It was just wonderful to taste it. That little boy had eaten that corn cob all the way down to the cob and was still sucking the juice out of it. It came time for the boy and his parents to leave. They went to get his coat on, but you know what happened? He would not let go of that corn cob!!! He loved it! They tried everything! They couldn't even get his coat on him because he wouldn't let go of that cob! Every time they would try and grab the cob he would scream at the top of his lungs. Everybody in the restaurant would look and then his parents would let it go and he would quiet down. They tried to reason with him. They tried to talk with him. They tried everything! This little boy held that ear of corn and by now he is red in the face and sobbing, but he would not turning lose of that ear of corn. He would rather sit there all night than turn loose of it. So finally the owner of the restaurant comes over and he says, "I think I can help you if you don't mind." They said, "We have tried everything. Go ahead." He pulled out a Hershey Bar and that little boy dropped that corn on the table and immediately reached for that Hershey Bar. HA!

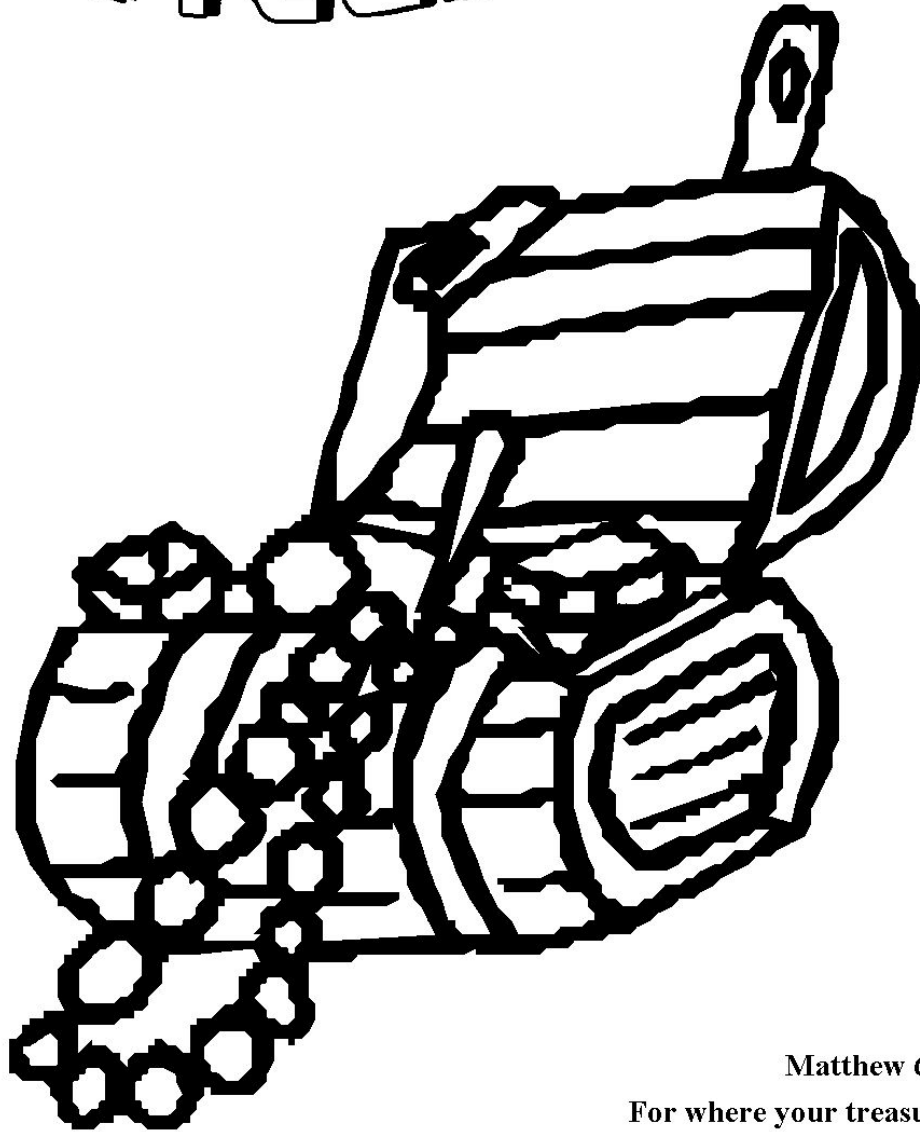
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person consider these things of the world as worthless and nothing? It is when we see something better! When does a person suddenly see this world and the things in it is a mirage? It is when we see something better! Just like that boy letting go of that corn cob for something better - that Hershey bar! Christ IS our something better!!! The scriptures tell you all the way through that Christ is better than the angels. (Hebrews) He is better than the old priesthood. He is better than the law! He is better than all of these things. He is better than all of the kings put together! He is BETTER! He is BETTER!! He is a better sacrifice. By His ONE sacrifice of Himself He put away our sins forever. When are we going to turn loose of the things of this world? It will be when we see something better!!!! Christ Jesus is the Christ of God. He IS something better!

Amen



Where Is Your Treasure?



Matthew 6:21

**For where your treasure is, there will
your heart be also**