

Hidden Treasures 204

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

JOURNEY TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY

We all know that one day our life is going to come to an end. We're only on a journey on which we accumulate many different impressions, and get an understanding of various matters. When we reach the end, each one of us will be questioned if we have accumulated the wisdom we were intended to get.

This can be compared to an educational journey. Many of the participants only think about seeking amusement while they're abroad. When it's over, they find that they have wasted both their money and their strength by accumulating the wisdom that night clubs, card games, and theatres have to offer. They've got nothing to show for their specific field of work in their profession for which the journey was actually intended.

And it is exactly the same with the outcome of many people's earthly lives. They are called to be with Jesus throughout all eternity,

but their only concern is to become important people as they journey through this world. When their life ends, and they are to enter into eternity, they have neither the treasures nor the wisdom which will fit into heaven. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out." 1 Timothy 6:7.

We can take a child as an example. You can speak with it about whatever you like. The child has neither experience in nor understanding of good nor evil. He has only a heavenly calling within his heart. But, there are many temptations in the world, and, as the child grows up, it becomes apparent if a good or a bad attitude of heart is in him. Those with a good attitude of heart will obtain the wisdom of life in the midst of their temptations and trials.

If such persons deny themselves, and do the will of God when they are tempted, instead of giving in to their self-will, the situations they face will be of value for their eternal home. They will bless instead of cursing, love instead of hating, serve instead of ruling over others, give gladly instead of taking from others, etc. When they end their journey, they will have accumulated both treasures and wisdom for their heavenly field of work and profession. They are intended to rule the future world along with Jesus (Rev. 3).

When a human being is born into this world, he has no understanding of anything at all. But when a person leaves this world, he has knowledge about many matters. In his spirit, he has accumulated knowledge, experience, and wisdom. "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither." Job 1:21. We cannot take anything earthly with us. In this respect, we are all alike - the millionaire and the pauper. But we will, indeed, take along with us everything that we have accumulated in our spirits. These are the riches we will have in eternity.

But how sad it is when a person has only accumulated practical knowledge in sinning and gained wisdom in things that pass away. At the end of his life, he is only able to talk with you about houses, furniture, clothing, and food; things which will not have a bit of profit for him once he ends his journey. Therefore, it is written: "Awake you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." Ephesians 5:14.

We have to wake up to our heavenly calling. We ought to think about our future and final destination. Tasks are awaiting us there, which we will only be able to carry out if we have been suitably trained for them. We should sanctify the Lord God in our hearts. He knows the journey. He has, Himself, lived through the temptations and difficulties

of a human being. He can feel along with us and help us in all circumstances. It is written in Psalm 50:15: "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." What a glorious offer we have received!

At present, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. Everything is directed from there: But He also lives in the hearts of those who believe Him, and He leads such people by His Spirit. They end their journey with the rich treasures which they have received in the midst of their earthly sufferings and tribulations. The riches they have accumulated here will belong to them forever, and they will be eternally happy.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life. . ." James 1:12. The crown of righteousness will be given to those who have done the will of God on earth (2 Timothy 4:7+8). The unfading crown of glory is for those who have sacrificed themselves for others (1 Peter 5:4).

Jesus used the parable of the treasure which was hid in a field. This treasure was of utmost importance for that man (Matt. 13:44) who sold all he had in order to get it. And the kingdom of God won't cost us any less. We, also, have to give up everything and give all

we have, but then we receive everything. This is how Jesus said it to His Father in John 17:10: ". . .and all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them". It is only with such an attitude of heart that such a high goal can be achieved.

Young people have their lives ahead of them. There are so many future plans and possibilities which are enticing. You ought to think over: "What is the best thing for me to do? Do I want to enjoy life, or do I want to sacrifice myself for an everlasting, glorious, godly life?" Everything that one indulges in is an eternal loss. No one will be satisfied by seeking his own advantages, serving only his personal lusts and desires.

No, egoism makes us sick, and because of it many people have got themselves into terrible circumstances. They had to harvest what they had sown. On the other hand, there are actually some people who have not lived for themselves. They served others and in this way, they, themselves, became happy. Our own deeds are what makes us either happy or unhappy.

On a visit to a home for the aged, I met a lady who complained about just about everything and everyone. She was not satisfied with the food, and she felt that she was not being treated correctly. She sang her daily song of

misery and complaint to all the others and burdened them, as well. In that same home, there was another lady who was thankful for the good food, who was grateful that everyone was so kind to her, and who felt that the treatment she received was better than she had deserved. Both of these ladies lived under the same circumstances, but what a difference there was between them! That was the result of the kind of life they had led beforehand.

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