

How you ever found something valuable?

Illustration: a ring? Odyssey Co and Mercedes treasure haul; goldrush in the Kimberley where many sold everything they had to find gold. It's a bit like the stories that Jesus told the disciples about in Matt 13:44-51.

Matt. 13:44 *"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. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for **fine pearls**. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."*

The first treasure was probably found when he was ploughing in the field and dug it up. He then buried it again and sold everything to buy that field... The first treasure was probably old and the second was a pearl that takes only 2 years to grow to the size of a pea. The man saw the pearl and sold everything to buy it.... New.

Matt. 13:47 *"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and **caught all kinds of fish**. ⁴⁸ When it was **full**, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Matt. 13:51 *"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied."*

Jesus then went onto talk about a net being cast and when it was brought to the shore it was full of all kinds of fish. I believe that this Scripture is talking about the great end time harvest as fish represent people as the disciples were called fishers of men. Jesus is saying that if we are sold out for Him, we will see an end time harvest.

Matthew 13:52 (NIV) ⁵² *He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the **owner of a house** who brings out of his storeroom **new treasures as well as old**."*

Most times when we think of treasure, we think of an old trunk full of gold, silver and jewels that had been hidden by pirates on a deserted Island. But Jesus talks about treasure that is old and new. Treasure is something that is of great value to someone. So, what is Jesus teaching us from this scripture? I believe he is saying there is great value in the old and great value in the new. **If we want to see a great end time harvest, we are going to need the old and new.** That is the only way that we will see people from all tribes, tongues and nations come to know the Lord. (All types of fish).

Unfortunately, some churches either have the old or the new. So, caught up in the latest and greatest that they have thrown away the old. Churches full of young people with plenty of life and jumping around with excitement (which is great), but then only a few older people. The older generation have experience that can only be found through years of serving the Lord and have so much to offer the younger generation in the church. Some are so bound up in religion and the past they are unable to move forward into the new. Just hold onto the old. Churches need the life, passion, and enthusiasm that youth bring to keep grow and remain alive and vital. Religion says, "That's the way we have always done it." Jesus speaks strongly against dead religion. Religion destroys reliance and eventually relationship. We can stand up and sing 2 fast songs 2 slow ones, communion offering and word, then out to lunch... Done and dusted!!!!!! Going through the motions doesn't give God an opportunity to move and limits Him from doing what he wants to do in and through you. **It is not a case of one or the other..... Jesus wants to give us both.**

Matt. 13:52 He said to them, *“Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the **owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.**”*

There is great value in the old and the new... To impact our city and nation for Jesus we need both. Jesus is not saying to choose one or the other, but He wants us to have both... He is opening his storehouse and going to bring out both.

Examples: there is great value in the Old Testament and the new testament.

The Old Testament (OT) reveals great truths to us and examples of what we should and shouldn't do. The OT doesn't just give us all the good things that people like King David did, but also reveals to us how easy it is to be tempted and sin against God. It shows his repentant heart and how he turned back to God and served him with his whole heart. Valuable lessons in life that we can all learn from. The OT reveals our sin to us and the need of a Saviour and without its truths we would never be able to understand the New Testament.

The New Testament (NT) talks about John the Baptist, commenting when he saw Jesus coming to the river to be baptised. He said behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Without the knowledge of the OT sacrifices, it would make no sense to the reader. The NT reveals God in the flesh, Jesus Christ who came to this earth as our example and lived a sinless life then being crucified shedding His blood to wash away our sins. Through Christ and his sacrifice, we now can come into a relationship with the God of the universe if we except what Christ did for us by faith.

Greatest value in the old **and** the new...

Acts 2:17 *“Jesus said, ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your **young men will see visions**, your **old men will dream dreams**. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit.”*

Outpouring of God's Spirit upon young and Old.... Old and New. God didn't say that He will just anoint the older folks and they do it all. He said, “young will see visions”, “Old will **dream** dreams” Men and women both old and young. We need both generations to reach the world for Christ. We need to older generation to reach the older folks.... The young ones can't do it. We need the new generation to reach out to the young people in the community us older ones can't understand what it is like for them to grow up in these times. They have pressures that we never faced when we were young. Social media is a prime example. When we were at school and a bully harried you, you could retreat to your home where there was a safe place for you to be. Today with social media, the bullying continues as they use thos platforms to attack them 24 hours a day. We never experienced those type of pressures when we were young, so we don't understand what it is like.

It is your responsibility to reach your generation for Christ. Young people its time for you to rise up and reach your friends... We want to see more young people saved and in church.... Young people filled with vision for the future. In **Geraldton, 52% of the population are under the age of 44**. That means that over half of this church should be filled with young people, young families...I'm not saying this to put pressure on you, but to stir your faith to believe that God wants to use you to reach your generation. It's going to take new and old to do it.... Value in both..... both treasures.

Why did God give dreams to the older people and vision to the young? Because it is the young ones today that are the church of the future.... He gives them the vision, because they will be the ones that will have to fulfil it.

Praise and Worship

Music is so powerful... it can be a tool of the enemy to draw young people away. It can hold worshipers captive to former times of blessing. God has given us song all the way through; we need older songs and newer songs; the next generation must sing their God given songs - willing to make sacrifices in order to see others come to the Lord. That's what Jesus did!!!! The Gospel is not a beat or rhythm but the sound of salvation.

- Psa. 33:3 Sing to him a **new song**; play skilfully, and shout for joy.
- Psa. 40:3 He put a **new song** in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday and today and forever** was not a Scripture to warrant ritual. This Scripture speaks of His character; Jesus changed His methods; every time he healed someone, He did it a different way... Sometimes just a word spoken, (The Centurian's servant) other times he touched them and even applying mud to the eyes of a blind person. If he would have done it the same way every time, we would have made a ritual out of it. Just copied him instead of consulting him on how he wants us to do it. Being led by the Holy Spirit is the key to seeing people healed in Jesus' name.

John 6:1-15 (NIV) *"¹Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*

Here we have a young boy, bringing the disciples what he had (five loaves and two fish) and giving it to them. They brought it to Jesus, and he blessed it and it **impacted a multitude**. 5000 men, plus women and children saw a miracle happen right in front of their eyes. Young and old working together for the glory of God. We need to see the next generations raised up and being used in the house of God. The young bringing their gifts and talents and laying them at the feet of Jesus.

A lad helped them then. 12 disciples changed the world. Jesus always blesses unity...We need to die to self and lay aside our personal preferences in order to see God work through us to touch the multitudes. I believe that God's desire is to see the treasure hunters working together – the older and the younger; the new and the old - working together to the Glory of God.