

Sharing Treasures Old and New
And Children's Message based on Part II- Discovery of the Song 2112 by
Rush

Based on Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-53, David Jahnke, 8/6/17

Later on Jesus will tell us that we have all kinds of treasures to bring out and show the world. That is one thing I get to do every week here as a pastor. So today I want to share a song that has been a treasure to me. It is about a young man who lives on a planet (*picture at 1:33 and then to the picture at 5:08*) controlled by a powerful group of priests. Here is a picture of the priests.

So now we will start playing the song for just a couple of minutes. (*Play video at 7:30*) A young man has a waterfall by his field. And he decides to go behind it. And there he discovers a treasure buried there. What does he see? It is a guitar-- something he had never seen before. The only music allowed was at the temple. So now you can just enjoy the song for a minute or two...and I will read the animation. *Stop the video at 10:15:*

So another treasure within the young man is music...he learns to play so quickly...; and each of you has special treasures from heaven inside.

The young man is so excited about what he has discovered that he has to bring it to the priests so that the world will be blessed through the new music (just like Jesus tells us to share the things we love with others.)

We are the priests who must praise people for their gifts. But when the young man goes to the priests, they say it is nothing new...they have seen it before and they are not interested in ancient things. (*Pic at 11:18 for a few seconds and right arrow to 11:23*)

That is sometimes the way it is for us. We have discovered wonderful things-- books, movies, games, toys; and particular talents that we have. And we bring them out to show others but too often, they don't really seem to care or it does not seem to make a difference to them. They do not see the wonder in it that we do...

But Jesus' tells us today that when we show others our treasures and when we share our talents and all for the sake of goodness (like the young man did), we plant tiny heavenly seeds. And even though it seems that nothing will come of it, the heavenly seeds can grow into wonderful things for them and for the world. God's Spirit will keep bringing these good things to their attention. That is God watering the seeds we plant. They may eventually come around and want to learn more about the things we treasure; the gifts we want to share. *(pic on 15:07)*

So the young man had a dream of people like him on another planet where they are free to love wonderful things. And in the end, his prayer for freedom and beauty was answered. And his planet was set free by elders who had left the planet when the priests took over. *(pic on 19:03)*

I saw Vince Larbi at Tae-Kwon-Do the other day. Maybe someday he will be a black-belt or maybe an Olympic champion. I saw a video of Isabel Miller dancing a couple of weeks ago; maybe one day she will be in the high school play or maybe even on Broadway. It does not matter whether it's the Olympics or Broadway or just for fun and fitness. Keep dreaming of great things and keep developing your gifts and interests and viewpoints and present yourselves.

God will grow the treasures that you share into something beautiful. And here in the church, we will always appreciate your talents and things you like.

And youth, don't let any negativity or apathy get you down. Don't worry about how many likes you get on Snapchat and Instagram. You are liked and loved by God, your family, church, community and by all the forces of goodness in this world. Let us pray...

I will start with a charge to you-- learn to treasure the things that others treasure. Look for the divine good in those things. And parents especially...who are often so busy and tired that it is hard to show interest in the things our kids treasure. But we must.

I do not play video games with my sons enough. But this is something they treasure, like most kids. This is dazzling and new and they can show their ability and when I show my interest, they light up. It means a great deal to know that someone cares about what they care about; that we see the good in what is good to them.

Throughout my life, I remember wanting to share cool things with the ones I loved, whether it be my family or friends. And being so excited when people cared and so confused when they could care less.

A few times recently on Friday night board game night at Mara's, I have noticed some of the younger people asking me if I want to see some of their good work. And it feels good to show interest and affirm their talents and treasures.

And that is the way our own children and other children of God open up to the treasures we want to share with them. As Dr. Sharrett has spoken about how listening to and loving others opens them up to the treasures we have to share.

So in Jesus' day, bringing treasures old and new out for guests would mean a book or two or work of art or a special game or a gem. And you would need to be somewhat rich to have even a few special treasures like this. Think about how full of treasures our lives are now! Thousands of books and movies and games and beautiful, cool things at our fingertips every day. So where is our awe? Where is our joy?

I am sure you have some of both but, in general, the amount of absolute treasures around the modern person should fill us to the brim with both. Too often the greatest treasure is missing. The one who is the beauty in the beautiful; the wonder in the wonderful; the ancient of days and the newest of the new. People have forgotten the great pearl and the treasure hidden in the field. People have forgotten God.

And that is where we come in. Believers are the scribes trained for the Kingdom of Heaven; we are trained in the glory of God. We have received an amazing education, in our homes, schools and church. So we know how dazzling; how glorious everything is because of the light of God. And knowing this, Jesus calls us to bring the ancient of days which fills the newest of new things out of the closet and into the world. We mention God (and Love and Peace etc.) And this should never feel like a burden or a scandal or an offense. It is simply a blessed reminder of why our lives are filled with awe and joy.

Now before we can get to this stage of gospel-sharing, we ourselves need an overflowing abundance of awe and joy in our lives. In other words, we need God-consciousness. Because that alone brings awe and joy. Without God-consciousness, even the treasures that surround us in the modern world become routine.

But God-consciousness-- being mindful and aware of God-- this requires training...which is what the church is for. We become conscious of God as we practice the opposite of forgetting God; as we remember Him which is what we do here...through regular worship, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. Eventually through practice, God becomes a natural part of our consciousness and that is when we start talking more about Him.

So FPC scribes, keep showing up for Kingdom of Heaven training. And think about what new thing or things you might like to be a part of, starting in the fall. You are a disciple-- a student-- of Jesus and your teacher is calling you to class on Sundays and more. The awareness of God that you will slowly gain with will bring a deeper measure of joy and wonder. And then you will feel stirred to share heavenly treasures, old and new, with the people around you so that they might know and experience the same joy, awe and love that you do. To the one who can do far more in us than all we can ask or imagine...