

TALK 9

• Is Christianity Really Worth It?

Matthew 13:44–46

Three Idols that Bury the Treasure of Christ and Hide the Value of Christianity:

1. The idol of money

- Matthew 19:16-22 - “And behold, a man came up to him, saying, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’ And he said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’ He said to him, ‘Which ones?’ And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The young man said to him, ‘All these I have kept. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

2. The idol of sex

3. The idol of success

- “I have an iron will, and all of my will has always been to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy.... I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being and then I get to another stage and think I’m mediocre and uninteresting... Again and again. My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that’s always pushing me, pushing me. Because even though I’ve become Somebody, I still have to prove that I’m Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.”²⁰ – Madonna
- “In the most radical way, God has adjusted to us – in his incarnation and atonement. In Jesus Christ he became a limited human being, vulnerable to suffering and death. On the cross, he submitted to our condition – as sinners – and died in our place to forgive us. In the most profound way, God has said to us, in Christ, ‘I will adjust to you. I will change for you. I’ll serve you though it means a sacrifice for me.’ If he has done this for us, we can and should say the same to God and others.”²¹ – Tim Keller

How do we uncover this treasure?

- Recognize His worth
- Respond with joy

Discussion Starters

- How do you feel about this message?
- What are some reasons you see people resist Christianity?
- What do you think about the idea that the Kingdom of Heaven is a priceless treasure or pearl?
- Right now, does anything seem more valuable to you than Christ?
- What idols have you seen in your life?
- Which car do you think you are in? Which do you want to be in?
- What do you think you have to do to get into the white car?
- Is there anything that you think God wants you to joyfully give up for Him?

Book Recommendation

- *Counterfeit Gods*, Tim Keller