

The Two Sellouts **Mark 6:14-29**

What is your treasure? What you value most will determine how you live your entire life.

When Jesus burst on the scene He invited people (as He invites you) to replace every treasure with Himself.

- ‘Make me your Treasure and I’ll satisfy your longings’
- ‘Give me your Life and I’ll give you a Life.’

This is a story of two Sellouts – Herod and John the Baptist.

Herod Antipas was the ‘tetrarch’ of Galilee. He wasn’t really a king – more of a regional Jewish ruler – but he was connected to Rome, so he had power and influence. He was a sellout to his passions.

John was a prophet – kind of the preacher of his day.

He was the opposite of Herod:

- He lived off the land rather than in a palace.
- He dressed in rags rather than opulence.
- He hung around commoners rather than royalty.
- His power was of the Spirit, not from the sword.
- When Herod spoke people had to listen – when John spoke people couldn’t resist – which eventually lands John in jail and costs him his life.

John had sold out to Jesus.

While Herod held to his little kingdom with all his might, John just walked away – to follow Jesus.

Herod was a slave to his dreams. His dreams were grand but in the end he wanted them so badly that he gave up everything precious to him to get them.

He got everything he wanted except what he thought getting everything he wanted would give to him. He sold out for nothing. At that moment he realized that he didn't possess his dreams – he was possessed by them.

Matthew 16:26 – “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?
Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Jesus and John understood that you could spend every waking moment chasing earthly dreams – and the saddest day of your life would be when you catch them and find out that they don't deliver the goods.

Have you ever chased a dream so hard, and then came up empty?

What are you holding on to?

The truth is that everyone sells out for something – some possession, some position, some acquisition, some thrill – or Jesus – the real question is: Is it worth it?

Matthew 6:21 – “... where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Two Questions:

1. Can I Let Go? – There is nothing wrong with possessions and dreams – unless they become treasures you can't part with. As soon as that happens you become a slave to your desires – and rather than enjoy, you destroy. So if I can let it go, I should – this is a heart 'thing.' Letting go is no easy task. It is hard to let go of affections. We can sink deep roots into all kinds of people, lifestyles, dreams, and things – and the deeper we sink them, the harder it is to let go.

Here is the Secret – Letting go is really about honesty. The day Jesus appeared in public John said, 'He must increase and I must decrease.' My guess is that he was talking as much to himself as he was to anyone else. He was orally walking himself through the 'letting-go process.' Later he would have doubts, as we do if we are honest. So tell yourself what is true – 'I have to let go if I am going to follow Christ.'

2. If I lose everything else will I be happy? – Do a personal inventory of your treasure. If I can lose everything else, can I be content with this one relationship or thing or status? And what will be the cost to every thing I love... dear if I hold on?

Matthew 16:25 – "... whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

What He means that in the end, when all is said and done, when we hold on to anything other than Christ we become possessed by what we thought we could enjoy.

We don't believe the Gospel. We don't believe Christ is sufficient – and so we cling to stuff and people and status to fill a hole they never fill – and we become slaves.

Jesus says, 'Your only hope to be free of everything is to give me all that you are – and trust me.'

Where your treasure is will determine how you live your life.

- If your treasure is Pleasure then one day you will exhaust your resources of life and love to be satisfied.
- If your treasure is Wealth then you are a slave and what you have will have you, and you will never really enjoy or give what you can't afford to let go of.
- If your treasure is Popularity then you will eventually abandon your own identity and dignity to have it.
- If your treasure is even your Spouse or Children then you will be devastated beyond repair if they disappoint or hurt you – and they will.
- If your treasure is Spirituality you will never enjoy the Joy of the Faith because you will hold more tightly to your religion than to Christ.

But if your treasure is Christ then you are released from the burden of possessing something to death. You truly love because you are loved. You freely forgive because your identity isn't held prisoner by things and people who will eventually disappoint. You belong to Christ so you are no longer a slave to perfection, self-promotion, or consumerism. You are safe in the Gospel and all that you have you are free to let go of – because in Jesus you have all you could dream of.