



## Series: There is Nothing Greater Than Walking with Jesus

### Lesson 5: “Jesus is the Bridge to Life”

\*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What would you say is the ultimate treasure according to worldly standards?

**Transition:** Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). What I determine is the greatest treasure will control my love, my passion, my convictions, the very purpose of my life.

**Bottom Line:** It is critical to comprehend the ultimate treasure is found only in Jesus.

#### LESSON PLAN

**Question:** Was there a time you thought you had some great treasure and it let you down?

*Years ago, my brother was investing in gold and silver and storing up great amounts. It was the chance of a lifetime, or so it seemed, but suddenly the bottom fell out of the market. He had borrowed money to buy it. It left him out in the cold in financial trouble. No one thought there would be a sudden drop that never recovered. I had a friend who was going to retire a millionaire at 40. He was putting everything he had into his company's stocks. It was climbing like crazy. He was almost there when the company took a serious hit and the prices hit rock bottom. In a very short time he went from almost being there to a major loss with the idea of retiring young completely killed. The treasure we think we see is only a mirage, a fake image.*

**Read Colossians 2:1-5**

*Laodicea was about 11 miles from Colossae.*

1. Paul writes this letter for both the Christians at Colossae and at Laodicea and the churches within the Lycus Valley who have not personally met Paul, places like Hierapolis which was planted by Epaphras. What does Paul give as his reason or purpose for writing this letter to circulate to the churches? (

**Question:** Why is it so important that we encourage one another in heart and work to be united in the AGAPE love of God in the church?



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2. To what three things does the encouragement of our hearts and unity of our sacrificial love lead?

- a. *the full riches of \_\_\_\_\_*
- b. *which leads to knowing \_\_\_\_\_ of God which is Christ*
- c. *which then leads to finding all the \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom and knowledge.*

*Paul is most likely emphasizing the treasure of the wisdom and knowledge of Christ to refute the Gnostic heresy that emphasized knowledge as a means of salvation. Paul insisted that it was the Christian, not the Gnostic who possessed genuine knowledge.*

3. How does a heart filled with encouragement and an unselfish love for others lead us to the riches of possessing complete understanding?
4. What does unselfish love, AGAPE love for others and unity among us, have to do with knowing that Christ is the Mystery of God?
5. How is knowing Christ the key to finding all the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

**Reflection Assignment:** Have each person write down in the space provided all the ways they see treasure in their lives that comes from the knowledge of Christ and His Holy Word. After a few minutes, have those who would like to share their information to do so.

6. In verse 4, Paul gives the reason he is writing this letter on true wisdom, knowledge and treasures, to be circulated. What reason does he give?



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*This is another indication the Gnostic teaching by very convincing people is being taught in the area. Of course there was also a blend of Jewish legalism that demanded a Gentile must become a Proselyte Jew before they could accept Christ as Savior. Christianity is only about 30 years old and is riddled with brilliant teachers distorting truth. Paul is equipping them so they will not be deceived and seek a false treasure.*

**Question:** How is this same purpose important to all of us today?

**Question:** What are some of the twisting of Christianity that add their knowledge to Jesus' complete Truth?

**Question:** What should the church be doing to help prepare people to NOT be deceived?

7. What is Paul's admonition in verse 5?

**Question:** What can we learn from this?

**Final Question:** What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?