

## TRINITY CAPITAL TRUST FOUNDATION

**Sunday 6 May 2012**

Message preached by Peter du Toit at the 7h45 Service and the 9h30 Services at Trinity.

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### ***Ezekiel 47 vs. 9***

"Where the river flows everything shall live..."

### ***1 Corinthians 9 vs. 14***

"...in the same way the Lord gave instruction that those who preach the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel."

Jesus tells the story in Matthew chapter 13 that:

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which someone found...and then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field."

This is barely a parable. It is in fact only one verse long! ***But the message that is given to us is profound.***

Treasure stories form part of every culture and they are indeed common in every aspect of our society and the plot is always the same; a man buys a field and he works it, in the process of his endeavours/ labours his plow strikes and then behold, he finds the treasure and he becomes rich!

It is a classic formula:

**One:** you buy/ acquire the field

**Two:** you work hard which leads you to

**Three:** finding the treasure....

The formula is always the same

There is treasure hidden in the world and we must work to find this treasure. ***Nothing begets nothing.*** You do not get anything in this life without sacrifice and working hard for it. We are cultured in the work ethic; buy the land (work with the talents you have been given) and through hard work you receive your reward. Nothing for nothing. When I was a small boy I coveted a certain gleaming sports car and my dad's response was, "Study hard my boy and one day you will be own a sports car like that."

If you want to succeed in the arts, sports or academic world, you must make daily sacrifices and you must work hard and only then you will be rewarded.

Then Jesus makes a simple two-line statement and teaches us that treasure was found in a field by a man who just happened to be passing through and stumbled upon it. The man then goes on to sell everything he owns to buy the field in which the treasure was found.

Our whole culture and way of thinking gets turned upside down. Think about it - he did not work for it and neither did he earn it. He simply found it and then sold and sacrificed everything he had in order to possess it.

In other words; the Greatest Treasure we have is not earned, we do not have to work for it, it is gift that is to be found in the Grace of God through Jesus Christ. We are saved by Grace and not by our own works. We are saved by and through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and not by our works or

achievements no matter how great they may be. This is our greatest treasure, which we are to find, placed by a God who has rescued us and redeemed us through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ who is:

- ***The very starting point of history***
- ***All things were made by Him***

The history that began in Him has fashioned this world; regulates this world, controls this world - for ***ONE PURPOSE AND ONE PURPOSE ONLY***. That we should be with Him, united to Him, reconciled to Him and rule with Him. ***The called out body of the Redeemed... you and I as the called out body of the Redeemed will, with Him, rule all of creation***. The called out body of the Redeemed, is the Universal Church of Jesus Christ, we are the called body of the Redeemed, ***THE BRIDE OF JESUS*** and when she is ready He will come and fetch her.

So we find we are at the very centre of the history of this world. ***THIS IS OUR TREASURE***...Trinity. This Church is our greatest possession and as the called out body of the Redeemed, God is seeking to re-create this world. I do not believe for one moment that God will act outside the Universal Church of Jesus Christ to do so as the Church continues to seek ways to better the world they live in. Jesus has entrusted His Church, His Bride to us. It is through the the Church that God seeks to fulfil His plan for our world.

**What is our vision for the Church and of ourselves?**

***Proverbs 29***

"Where there is no vision the people perish."

"I have a dream..." cried Dr. Martin Luther King as he stood on the steps of a building in Washington DC in the early sixties. What is our dream? Do we weep, is our dream diminished by life's circumstances, or the place we find ourselves?

***Psalms 137***

"The Hebrew people cried;  
By the Rivers of Babylon  
We sat down  
And wept when we remembered Zion  
How could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?  
How could we forget you Jerusalem?"

The Hebrew people had been led as captives to a strange land and as captives had wept when they remembered their beloved Zion. They lived with fear, regret, disappointment, confusion and found themselves floating in a sea of doubt and uncertainty where dark clouds rolled in.

***Into this sea of uncertainty there came a man who moved in their midst and who saw a vision. The man was Ezekiel. In chapter 47 we share in his vision of the outpouring of the supernatural grace of God upon a thirsty and haggard people.***

There came an outpouring of the Supernatural Grace of God. Ezekiel saw a mighty river come down from heaven which fell upon the Temple. Down from Heaven came the river which fell on the Altar. From the Temple or Altar there came a mere trickle of a stream and it began to flow, soon becoming a stream. Then it became bigger and soon turned into a river which got stronger and stronger until it turned into a raging torrent. It continued to flow faster and faster until it reached the Dead Sea. It had turned the brackish waters of death into life-giving water.

***Wherever the river flows there is life along the river banks for trees, grass, people and animals. In short it is the mighty River of Life.***

For the captives of Babylon life was different now. They were still captives in a foreign land but they knew that God was with them and that the Supernatural Grace of God, the mighty river of His love, would restore them to their land.

***Firstly*** • Down from Heaven comes the Supernatural love of God which falls upon His Church, it falls upon us the called out body of the Redeemed to give us energy ,strength, power and wisdom to energise our souls. God alone can give us the power to make a better world. Down from Heaven comes a rush of creative energy.

***Secondly*** • The River flows from the Temple, the Church of Jesus Christ. It is through the Church of Jesus Christ that God is seeking to make a better world. The Church, regardless of their social and intellectual thoughts, is still right on line to meet the divine purpose of the God of all creation. It is through the Church that the hope of this world exists.

***Thirdly*** • The River flows; from a trickle to a raging torrent it will flow. It gives life wherever it flows until it reaches the brackish waters of the Dead Sea where it will transform death into life.

***THIS RIVER FLOWS FOR THOSE FOR WHOM IT HOLDS NO PRETENCE.***

Some will resist it, some will try and dam it up, others will try and divert it, but no matter how hard we try we will never be able to divert the divine purpose of the River of God. We will never be able to stop it. God will never give up on His divine plan for creation.

We have all heard of the prophet Jonah who was swallowed by a whale. Jonah tried to change the course of the River of Gods plan for man. God called Jonah to go to Ninevah. He questioned what good could come out of Ninevah, a city of 120000 pagans. He felt God was mistaken, "I will go to Spain, that is where I can fulfil Gods plan and purpose." Reasoned Jonah. So Jonah boarded a boat for Spain, 120 degrees opposite to what God had wanted and Jonah was quite comfortable with his plans as he set sail for Spain.

But God did not let go. God caused a great storm to blow, which threatened the boat and everybody on board.

On the upper deck the sailors tried desperately to keep the ship afloat whilst on the lower deck the man of God slept. Amazing, the man of God was below deck, whilst on the upper deck the Pagans were hard at work trying to save the ship from sinking!

It is the same today. Just how many of Gods people are rationalizing with the Word of God and His calling while hiding away on the lower deck, leaving the pagans of the world to try and run the worlds social, economic and sociopolitical systems?

There are real issues out in the world which need to be addressed by Gods people, but Gods people choose to decide for themselves and hide in the hull of the boat whilst the non-believers are left to run our world. But God does not give up. We know the story; Jonah is found out, thrown overboard, swallowed by a fish and so off to Ninevah he duly went. Not a pleasant experience for one who thought he knew better. He brought judgement upon himself.

***The bride of Christ is entrusted to us, the Church... but I believe that we frustrate the destiny of the flow of Gods grace by behaving like Jonah. By thinking we know better, by hiding away from real issues and leaving it to others, the mission of the Church is being frustrated. One of the greatest frustrations that is causing the river to stagnate, is the lack of financial resources.***

Some of the most challenging words in the Word of God is to be found in the book of the prophet ***Malachi Chapter 3 vs. 9:***

“There is a curse on your nation because you have robbed me; where is your tithe?”

These words make us want to behave like Jonah, we want to wish them away with our reasoning, we want to hide away from this issue like Jonah hid in the hull of the boat. God wants his share of the bounty, 10%, the other 90% is ours. It is a difficult issue and one which we do not have all the answers to, however, I do know from personal experience that our financial destiny is determined by our giving. Although it easier said than done.

Let me illustrate:

I am a shareholder and a Director of a financial company. We are all Christians and every meeting is opened in prayer and praise. It is a wonderful way to go about business. There was one Board meeting though where after much thanksgiving for the year that had passed and for the profit we had made, I suggested that we tithe our profit. I was met with silence. We had never thought of this before. It was easy to give thanks but when it came to giving what actually belonged to God ... We eventually gave our tenth and this company became one of the first to give to the Trinity Foundation.

On another occasion with another company of mine we gave to the Trinity Foundation before the final audit. Then when we met with the auditors and the shareholders the auditors queried the donation. Before I could say a word a shareholder told the auditors that the donation represented our *Insurance money!* To me this is a major problem in that we do not understand what it actually means to give to God what is His. In is Prophetic Book, Malachi refers to the storehouse/ pantry being empty. This to me is the big issue in the mission of the church which God has entrusted to us.

Our financial resources in the Church are barely sufficient to pay our running expenses. It may be that there a few extra Rands to build a few buildings or repair existing buildings but there is not enough to fund outward ministries or missions. The end result is that we become introverted and focus on the inward ministry. The river is not flowing as it is meant to be and in fact there is a feeling of *financial oppression*.

It is not only the Church that is feeling financially oppressed, almost every nation of the world is struggling with financial issues. Unbalanced budgets, unemployment and bewilderment. It is an everyday story and I believe that nations of the world are in trouble because the professing people of God are not focussed on their tithe - are not focussed on giving to God what is Gods.

When the Church is rebellious and disobedient the nations will have difficulties. The Governments can bring in the best advisors, the best economists, the most able statistician but confusion still exists and pervades the air. Without fail, every night, the finest economic brains appear on our television programs and all they do is sow seeds of confusion. We just do not know and are as confused as the rest. Yet let the Church make right with God and all the world will be blessed by its teachings.

If all the people of God would give to God what is His three things will happen.

**One** • The Church would become alive, morale would be restored and our membership would grow.

**Two** • The financial creditability of the Church would be restored as an entity and the world, including Governments, would take note of what the Church has to say. The Church will be taken seriously and not looked upon as just another institution in need of money.

**Three** • We will receive manifold blessings from God in everything that we do and touch more than we ever imagine, which defies natural explanation. We cannot explain it

There is a verse in John Bunyans Tales which reads:

There was a man  
They thought he was mad  
The more he gave  
The more he had.

There was once a widow in a drought stricken land, who only had enough flour and cooking oil for one more meal for her son and herself. She heard a knock on the door and there stood the Prophet Elijah. He wanted to come in and asked for a meal. Can you imagine the decision that this mother had to make? She had prepared her last meal for her and her son and now Elijah wanted it. We know that in the end she gave what she had to the man from God... And we also know that as she gave what she had, God filled her pantry with more than enough flour and oil for the widow and her son.

It is only when we open our hands and give what we have, that the Almighty opens his hand and re-fills our open hands.

***The Trinity Capital Foundation has been established in order that we can give and receive the manifold blessings from God.***

***It is a foundation that must stand the test of time and only end when our Lord comes to take his bride. It is a foundation which will invest the capital so that the fruit of the vine can fund the future ministries of the Church from which a mighty river will flow.***

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