

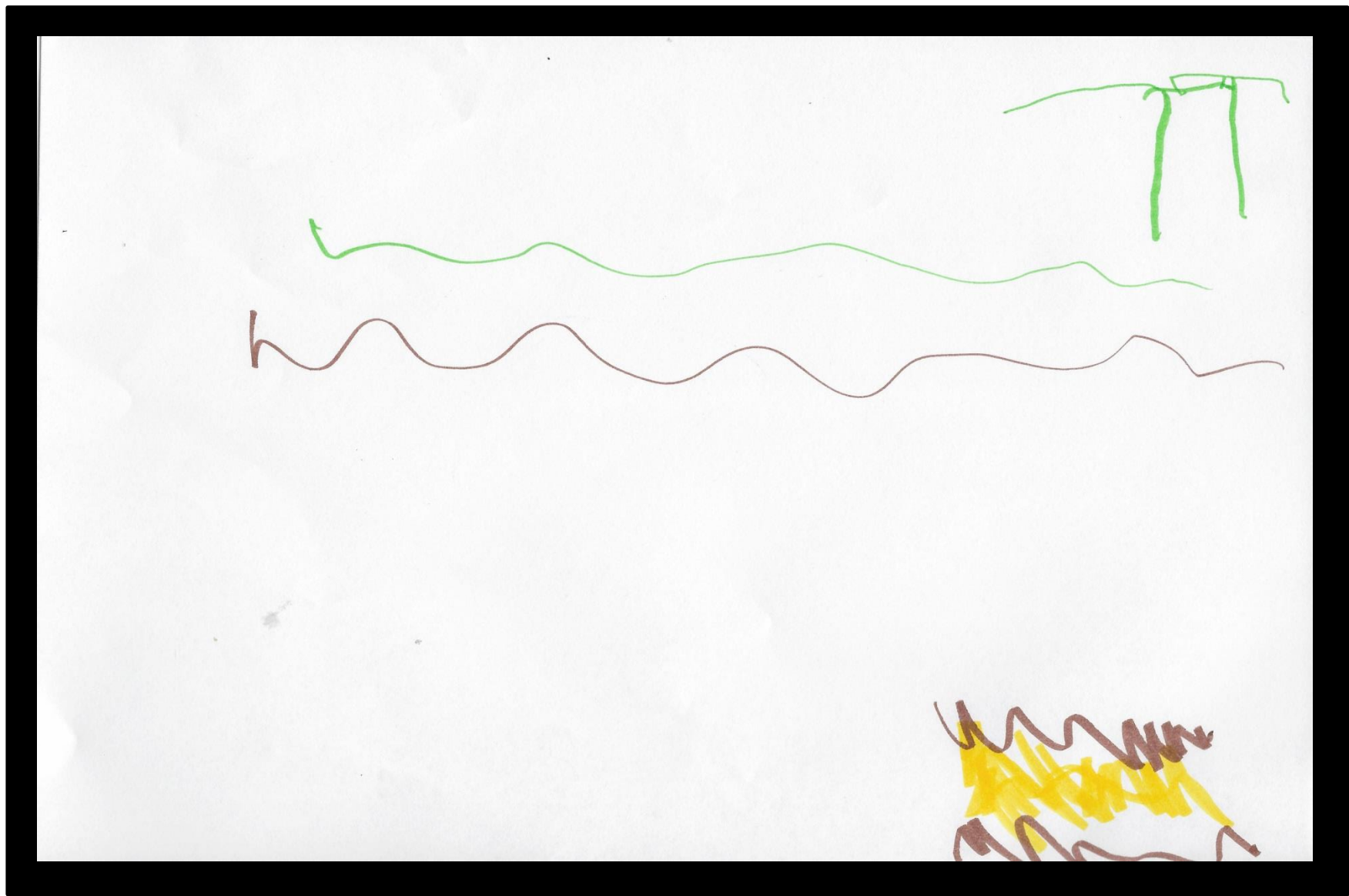
9 2 '18

# The Hidden Treasure

*The Hidden Treasure*



*The Hidden Treasure*



The Hidden Treasure

God created us to be deliriously happy, but most miss it and too many find too little of the joy God intends for us.

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## Matthew 13:44

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

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In order for us to experience the  
deepest happiness available we must...

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**1. ...embrace that God desires that  
we pursue it.**

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## Matthew 13:44

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ME

*The Hidden Treasure*

ME → GOD

*The Hidden Treasure*

JOY ← ME → GOD

*The Hidden Treasure*

Selfish

*The Hidden Treasure*

Selfish

Unselfish

*The Hidden Treasure*

Selfish

Unselfish

Harm Others

*The Hidden Treasure*

Selfish

Unselfish

Harm Others

**Diminish God's glory**

*The Hidden Treasure*



Selfish

Unselfish

Harm Others

Diminish God's glory

**My joy**

*The Hidden Treasure*

## Selfish

Harm Others

Diminish God's glory

My joy

## Unselfish

**Others benefit**

*The Hidden Treasure*

## Selfish

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**Elevate God's joy**

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**Not my joy**

*The Hidden Treasure*

## Selfish

Harm Others

Diminish God's glory

My joy

## Unselfish

Others benefit

Elevate God's joy

Not my joy

**My joy**

*The Hidden Treasure*

ME

*The Hidden Treasure*

**ME**



**GOD + JOY**

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## Psalm 16:11

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.

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**1. ...embrace that God desires that we pursue it.**

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1. ...embrace that God desires that we pursue it.
2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness.

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## Matthew 13:44

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Why don't we more easily recognize the deep  
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## 2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness.

Why don't we more easily recognize the deep joy that is found in Jesus?

- **We don't believe Christianity provides it.**

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Why don't we more easily recognize the deep joy that is found in Jesus?

- We don't believe Christianity provides it.
- **We don't recognize the joy producing value of Jesus.**

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## **2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness...**

**Why don't we more easily recognize the deep joy that is found in Jesus?**

- We don't believe Christianity provides it.
- We don't recognize the joy producing value of Jesus.

**a. Not seen it in that many people.**

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## 2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness...

**Why don't more easily recognize the deep joy that is found in Jesus?**

- We don't believe Christianity provides it.
- We don't recognize the joy producing value of Jesus.
  - a. Not seen it in that many people.

**b. Allure of the immediate, concrete, material pleasures supersede it.**

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## **2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness...**

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**c. Think Christianity is more about community and service than God.**

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**d. Minimal experience of what it means to be saved.**

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  - c. Think Christianity is more about community and service than God.
  - d. Minimal experience of what it means to be saved.

**e. Nominal expectation that OST will produce deep joy.**

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1. ...embrace that God desires that we pursue it.
2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness.

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1. ...embrace that God desires that we pursue it.
2. ...recognize the only source of our deep, lasting, soul-fulfilling happiness.
3. **...pursue that happiness (Jesus) with all our might.**

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What is “selling all we have”?

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What is “selling all we have”?

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Treasuring Jesus above anyone or anything.

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**What motivates us to “sell all we have”  
for the treasure of Jesus?**

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### **3. ...pursue that happiness (Jesus) with all our might.**

What motivates us to “sell all we have” for the treasure of Jesus?

**1. We believe Jesus, a relationship  
with God, is the only place to  
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### **3. ...pursue that happiness (Jesus) with all our might.**

What motivates us to “sell all we have” for the treasure of Jesus?

1. We believe Jesus, a relationship with God, is the only place to find it.

**2. We are convinced of the joy  
producing value of Jesus.**

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What motivates us to “sell all we have” for the treasure of Jesus?

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  - a. **See deliriously happy Jesus followers.**

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**b. Allure of deep joy in  
relationship with God  
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**c. Convinced community is  
key to growing a  
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**d. Ever increasing experience  
of what it means to  
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  - c. Convinced community is key to growing a relationship with God thrills us.
  - d. Ever increasing experience of what it means to be saved.

**e. Overwhelming conviction  
that OST will produce  
deep joy.**

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*“If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.*

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*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. “*

*- C.S. Lewis (The Weight of Glory)*

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# Takeaways:

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- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...

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- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
  - **Read Psalm 16:11 and Matthew 13:44, ask God to reveal His truth.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
  - Read Psalm 16:11 and Matthew 13:44, ask God to reveal His truth.
  - **Read Desiring God, by John Piper.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- **If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
  - **Evaluate, what things, people might you be treasuring more than God would desire.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
  - Evaluate, what things, people might you be treasuring more than God would desire.
  - **Look for someone who seems to be experiencing it, get to know them.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
  - Evaluate, what things, people might you be treasuring more than God would desire.
  - Look for someone who seems to be experiencing it, get to know them.
  - **Keep reading God's manual for happiness, the Bible.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
- **If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, and you are vigilantly pursuing Him...**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
  - If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
  - If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, and you are vigilantly pursuing Him...
- **Be sure you are sharing with those already in your life.**

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- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, and you are vigilantly pursuing Him...
  - Be sure you are sharing with those already in your life.
  - **Look for someone with whom to share it.**

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# Takeaways:

- If struggling to believe God wants me to be happy in Him...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, but having trouble pursuing Him (it)...
- If you believe the deepest joy is found in God, and you are vigilantly pursuing Him...
  - Be sure you are sharing with those already in your life.
  - Look for someone with whom to share it.
  - **Look for someone else with whom to share it.**

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