

## Gold Nuggets

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Imagine, a family holds the deed to a piece of property. As the years go by this family has worked this land with crops and livestock. Some years have been good, some not so good, and the family struggles. They struggle with lost crops from the periods of bad weather and the death of livestock from uncontrollable diseases. As the times of difficulty begin to build the stresses continually increase. The family has difficulty with every rising of the sun. After some time has passed this family receives information that this particular piece of property is rich in gold nuggets. Sometime in the distant past prospectors came from miles around to dig and search for the nuggets but they found that just a few feet down the ground was riddled with rock and clay taking the difficulty of the work to the utmost extreme. While the prospectors labored news of a new gold strike made the rounds in the many gold mining camps. This was the strike of all strikes and the tales of mining with ease began to grow rampant. It was said that with every step a man could take another gold nugget was uncovered in his wake. The tales became so forceful that the entirety of this mining community packed up camp looking for the life of ease and luxury from the time of toil spent in this area of hard labor. As the time passed the riches of this parcel of land were forgotten, because the work was just too difficult. Imagine the angst. What is the family to do? For years they have done nothing but labor with their hands and sure the years of been difficult but they are still alive and able to continue. Do they

abandon what they have known all of their life to begin something that is NEW to them, or do they continue to drudge on because it is what they have always done? The only way to find the gold nuggets, and improve their quality of life, is to completely change what they have known. They must do away with all the farm equipment that cannot be used for this new purpose and the livestock must go as the land will not be fit to graze. The only way to find the nuggets is to put the old life behind, and dig into this new life continually looking toward the future hope of a better life. How often this imagined fairy tale applies to the spiritual walk of life. Many have been misled by doctrines of men (Matt 15:9, Mark 7:7). Some of these false teachers do so unknowingly while others do so out of full knowledge "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43 KJV). During the walk of those who have followed untruthful teachings times have been good, and times have been bad. This misguided hope has allowed many to go to the grave in a state of eternal decay (Matt 10:28, Mark 9:44). Dear reader, this is the life of that land owner. Going from day to day under the mask of "I am ok" while being taught denominational doctrine. Because of the often innocent misguided teaching many are stuck in the "this is what I have always done" mentality, or, "it was good enough for my folks, its good enough for me."

So the question must come, is there a correct way? With all the many different belief systems out there is there one that is true? The Scriptures are filled with gold nuggets in the field that requires much labor. Through Divine guidance, Paul recorded, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope

of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph 4:4–6 KJV). The same inspired penman also left this gold nugget of truth, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor 12:13 KJV). Some may observe this truth and say, "yes, one way, one belief, belief in God, belief that Jesus is the Son of God, that's the one way." Only, James related, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19 KJV). This author finds difficulty in believing that one would desire to be in the company of demons, who also believe in "that" one way. No, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6 KJV). In the same chapter, which also is in the same context, Jesus offered comfort unto His disciples, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16 KJV). The word "another" in the Greek means "one of the same kind," i.e. not Himself but One like Him. He explained who this Comforter would be, "Even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17 KJV). This Spirit of truth, the third member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, would have a specific duty to fulfill, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13a). This was the work that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, would conduct. "For he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13 KJV). The Holy Spirit would inspire the writers of the New Testament in the same fashion that He did the holy men of God

in the past, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet 1:21 KJV). This Divine Guide would bring all truth to the apostles, as those were the men to whom Jesus spake these words, as according to, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17 KJV). So, how to wrap this up? The word that Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit was delivered to inspired writers and passed down from generation to generation. This word was, and is, the word of truth of which there is only one way. That one way is through Jesus, as He is the door and the only means of entrance. As the door He has the right to grant access only to those He desires. His desires He plainly spoke (John 8:24, Luke 13:3, Matt 10:32-33, John 3:3-5). Only those meeting these conditions would He allow entrance into His kingdom. The only way is through Him, through His kingdom, His church (Matt 16:18) the church of Christ (Rom 16:16) i.e. the church that belongs to, and shows the ownership of the One Way. How can one belong to a “church” that wears another name, showing ownership to another. No husband that has or will draw breath would stand for his wife to wear the name of another man, neither will the Master of our lives. Gold Nugget Found.

Would the family of our fairy tale settle for only one nugget? Would one nugget be enough for this family to substantially improve their lives? This author believes not. Once one nugget is unearthed it would only make sense for this family to then work tirelessly to unearth another. “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils?

and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt 7:22–23 KJV). It has been declared that this passage refers to only those who do not believe on His name, only the enemies of God. Despite all the abrogating the text speaks to the contrary. Dear reader, might this author draw your thoughts to the different sections of this statement. “Many will say to me in that day.” In that day here is referring to the judgement scene. The day that everyone will bow to the knee and acknowledge Him as the Son of God. In that day not one stone will be left unturned. There will no longer be “Atheist,” or “Buddhist,” or “Muslim,” or any other claim to divinity other than the one true Deity (Rom 14:11). The time and coming of that day no man knows but only the Father in Heaven (Matt 24:36). The day that will come as a thief in the night (Matt 24:43, 1Ths 5:2, 2Pet 3:10). The day that will be the noisiest day known to man when the Lord will be seen by every eye coming in the clouds in the same way in which He ascended to the Ancient of Days to receive His coronation (1Ths 4:16, Rev 1:7, Acts 1:9, Dan 7:13–14). Not only did He speak of that day, but, in that day “many will say Lord, Lord.” Ignoring this one fact is futile. Those in that day will address the Master as one who believes in Him. This is the use of “Lord, Lord.” Can you not see the intensity of the scenario. Many will adjure the Lord in earnest looking for some form of recognition making appeal and asserting “have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works.” Yes, dear reader, in that day these are believers. Believers that attempted to do many things in the name of the Lord, but, something is at variance. What

could this variance be? What could cause the Master to look at those who claim to believe in Him and do all these wonderful works in His name that would cause His reply to be “depart from me, ye that work iniquity,” pronouncing that dreaded sentence, “depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41 KJV). Discernable is the acknowledgement, of these that make these great claims, of the Son of God, yet, something is missing. “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15 KJV). There in lies the difference. The Master is the Door to the kingdom. To enter into any commonwealth the entrant must agree with the laws of that society. For example, to enter my home there is are three rules that must be met before entry and will remain intact throughout the presence of participant (notice: when one is a participant he willingly volunteers to participate. For one to voluntarily participate he/she is also volunteering to obey the rules ect...). Those rules? “No smoking and no one under the influence of any intoxicant or use of profanities will be allowed in my home.” If one were to attempt entry into my home and be found in violation of those rules their entrance would be rejected. The same fact applies to the Master’s kingdom. It is His kingdom, not ours, not mine, not yours. As such the rules for entrance to His kingdom are made by Him and are not left to our desires, wants, or wishes. The Master the of kingdom gave instruction for entrance INTO His kingdom, His church (Rom 10:17, Acts 8:36-37, 3Pet 3.9, 1Pet 3:21). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given

him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:25–29 KJV). What is good, but keeping His commandments? Another Gold Nugget Unearthed.

Revisiting our fairy tale for a moment, imagine that our family is one of a generous sort. They have never been a family that has shown traits of selfishness or greed. In fact, part of the reason for the many years of difficulty they faced was because they gave up much of what they had to help those whom they saw as less fortunate. These were their friends, their neighbors. Now, they have been introduced to a means that will not only support them, but, enough is available to help everyone they know to never have to go hungry or thirsty again. As such, they decide to share the wealth of their land with their friends. As word gets out they all the sudden find out that they have more friends than they realized. Some of these friends were people who ridiculed them in the past for being so poor. Some of these NEW friends had been guilty of attempting to ruin their crops and poison their animals. Now, they are coming out of the woods in droves. People whom they have never met are all the sudden their bestest friends. The Master had those friends too. When the fame of His work made its way across the land, “a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased” (John 6:2 KJV). After feeding five thousand with

basically nothing those friends wanted to make Him a king by force (John 6:15). When He took His leave from that mob they searched for Him and upon finding them he exclaimed “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.” (John 6:26–27 KJV). They asserted that Jesus should give them a sign that He was from God (as if the signs of His prior miracles were nothing). He then turned His attention to the cultivation of their spiritual hunger. At the culmination of this teaching, “many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it” (John 6:60 KJV). These friends the master knew, “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him” (John 6:64 KJV). Because the teaching was difficult these friends showed their true colors. They were after one thing, to feed their physical desire. For that, “from that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him” (John 6:66 KJV). One thing is for certain, we do enjoy our friends. The plans we make, do they not involve other? Not a single person on this earth desires to truly be alone. A hymn that is sung in congregations of the Lord’s body ensues, “Once I stood in the night with my head bowed low, in the darkness and black as could be, then my heart felt alone and I cried O’ Lord, don’t hide your face from me, Hold my hand all the way, every hour, every day, from here to the great unknown, take my hand let me stand, where no one stands alone. Oh, yes,

dear reader, we do not relish the thought of being alone. We are a social creature, made in His image (Gen 1:27). Inference into this matter details that God is social. He desires the company of others. He desires the company of His creation. He has never left His creation alone and we are not alone today. He desires to help, aid, and comfort His creation. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt 11:28-30 KJV). However, there is a stipulation. The one obligation placed on the Masters friendship, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14 KJV). A Gold Nugget now rests in your hands.

The family in our fairy tale was given the opportunity for untold riches. These riches were not of the sort to come easily. They would had to work hard. Sometimes, the work would become difficult when the ground was harder in the dryer times. It was in these times that the blisters would grow and back would ache. With every sunrise a new pain was found. Sometimes these pains would be debilitating and the work might almost cease, if not for the hope of riches to come. You see, dear reader, they not only labored for themselves, but, heir time was spent in labor for others. This labor required a tremendous amount of work. On occasion one of their "real" friends would become disgusted with them because of their pride. They would blurt hurtful things, "who are you to judge my well being," or "what makes you think you are so great because you 'lucked' into

that land.” In this analogy is where we complete our story, because, this story is difference between you and me. The gold nuggets that I am digging for, I desire to share with you. The riches that await the faithful on the other side of life’s gateway I want to obtain, but, I do not want to obtain them alone. It would be easy to stand aside and say, “who are you to judge me,” or “you think your the only ones going to heaven.” The difficulty wrests with your decision to follow Him. You can attempt to follow Him through vain deceit and traditions of men, or, you can follow Him in the manner which He prescribed. The Hebrews writer is quoted as saying “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12 KJV). God’s all inspired, inerrant, recorded Word is able to prick your heart and create in you a desire to be pleasing to Him, but, it also has the ability to cut your heart (because of a lack of a desire to change) and harden it to turn against Him. To find the Gold Nuggets, you must get into His word, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15 KJV), so that, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psa 119:11 KJV). Then, and only then will, “ Thy word is (be) a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psa 119:105 KJV). The question to remain is this, do you want the riches of the hope that can only be found in the all sufficient word of God, or will you continue to put your trust in men (refer to world history, and reason to the conclusion of that fallacy)?