



Sermon delivered by  
The Rev. Betsy Williamson  
Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church  
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**“A Different Kind of Treasure”**  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

In the fall of 1984, my family was cleaning out my grandparents’ house. Both of my grandparents had died several years earlier and I was living in the house. Developers bought up all of the property around it to build condominiums. My parents traded the house and the lot for a condo, so we were cleaning out the last things that belonged to my grandparents for distribution to the family. The house had a back porch that I had never really touched while I lived there. It contained my grandfathers’ tools and a lot of junk, too. Mother was looking through the junk when she found a vase. It was a blue pottery-type of vase, with a pinecone motif. She asked if I wanted it, and I said no that I was going to throw it away. She liked it so she took it. A couple of months later, we were at an antique show. We saw some more pottery like the vase. We discovered that the vase was Roseville pottery, a very, very popular antique collectable. Not only was the vase very popular, but also the pinecone style was relatively rare. Over the years, we have watched the price for this vase soar! Mother has never let me forget that I almost threw away the vase. Sometimes, we don’t recognize a treasure when we hold it right in our hands!

Randy Pausch recognized treasure when he saw it. Maybe you have heard about Randy. He is the Carnegie Mellon professor who died on Friday. At Carnegie Mellon, it is the custom for professors to give a talk called, “The Last Lecture,” where they expound on what in life matters most to them. By the time it was Randy’s turn, he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. So, his talk carried a different tone of poignancy. Some of you may have seen his lecture on You Tube or television. Maybe you have read his book.

The title of Randy’s talk was, “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams,” but it became the “summation of everything Randy believed: “the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment” in life. By the end of the talk, it is obvious to the hearer that not only had Randy Pausch found his treasure – life, but also that he knew a lot about what to do with this treasure. He lived it to the fullest measure.

Some of the parables in today’s passage describe the treasure as coming from small and humble beginnings and growing to great size. The Kingdom of Heaven started with a virgin birth in a lowly stable. That kingdom has grown, and continues to grow, one person at a time. It will continue to grow in incredible ways until that final day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

Some of the parables in today’s passage describe what the person who finds the treasure does with the treasure. The small mustard seed, when planted, becomes a large bush to hold the nest of a bird. The yeast is combined with other ingredients to grow and become a huge amount of bread, which will feed many people. On the other hand, the treasure in the field and the pearl are found and kept by the finder accomplishing nothing.

At the Steele Creek Church in Charlotte, the pastors and lay leaders have been encouraging their members find creative ways to fill the church's coffers in these summer months where giving is usually low. One woman rummaged through her house and found some pieces of jewelry that she rarely wore. She took the jewelry to a dealer and sold it – for \$1,200! She gave the money to the church to enable the mission and witness of Jesus Christ this summer. She knows what to do with her treasure!

The treasure is Jesus Christ. He has called us to be his people. The question for each one of us is this: Am I going to keep this treasure locked inside, or am I going share it with others and further the Kingdom of Heaven? Amen.