



July 24, 2008

Thought For the Day

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

There is a story from the Desert Fathers about a young monk who asked one of the older men of the desert why it was that so many people came out to the desert to seek God and yet most of them gave up after a short time and returned to their lives in the city.

The older monk told him, "Last evening my dog saw a rabbit running for cover among the bushes of the desert and he began to chase the rabbit, barking loudly. Soon other dogs joined in the chase, barking and running. They ran a great distance and alerted many other dogs. Soon the wilderness was echoing the sounds of their pursuit but the chase went on into the night.

After a little while, many of the dogs grew tired and dropped out. A few chased the rabbit until the night was nearly spent. By morning, only my dog continued the hunt. "Do you understand," the older man asked, "what I have told you?"

"No," replied the young monk, "please tell me father."

"It is simple," said the desert father, "my dog saw the rabbit."

Jesus told two short parables about men who found great treasures. Unlike others they understood the value of the treasures they had found and they sold all they had in order to obtain them. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says: ***But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*** (Hebrews 2:9) As we fix our eyes on Jesus, how can we help but be overwhelmed by the greatness of what He has done for us? And once we have seen Him, how could we want anything else?

I have seen your glory O Lord. Help me to pursue you with all I have.