**20250810 Luke 12.32-40 What’s it worth?**

Antiques Roadshow….are we all familiar with it?

I’m not a fan of people bringing in items, that they already know the history of… you know the ones? They bring in all sorts of items, jewellery or a set of drawers, that belonged to great-grandad who worked as a footman for Lord Snuffleberry in Gloucestershire, and they already know everything! Or the ones that bring in a painting, they already know who the artist was and what’s it worth. Why bring it to Antiques Roadshow then? Because you’re showing it off on prime time telly?

No, what I like is the ones that bring along something they really don’t know about. A bedpan that the specialist discovers has Queen Victoria’s initials on it, a murky sketch signed off Leonardo de Vinci, and the big reveal of what it is worth…..the item they bought for £3 at a charity shop or car bootie is worth somewhere in the region of £75, 000 at auction. We are all secretly hoping the odd trinket we’ve had handed down in our family is worth a small fortune.

Though in my head, I’m thinking…..sell it!

I did actually know someone who this happened to. They took a vase along to the Antiques Roadshow and had it valued and it was worth tens of thousands of pounds. They had no idea.

But what ended up happening, is the vase that usually was out on display on a windowsill then became something of a worry. They ended up boxing it away to keep it safe. And in some kind of family comedy, my friend and her brother kept passing it to the other to look after, neither wanted the burden of keeping it safe, it just made them worried……sell it!

Last week’s gospel, which comes just before this one has Jesus talking about money and wealth and he knows how weird it can make us. Last week, the parable of the Rich Fool had this man planning on creating bigger barns to store all his grain from a bumper harvest, he’s so very pleased with himself, he plans to have a party, on…his…own. He’s got no-one to share his life with.

This week, Jesus is talking about riches again. But he’s very aware of what it does to us, boxing up a vase to keep it safe and the like.

Treasure is wonderful thought, isn’t it? Jewels, gold, pearls….all spilling out of a treasure chest, maybe with a dragon guarding it.

Well, I brought some treasure along, …..find it?

No…you can’t have any of it…it’s mine!

Treasure can make us a bit weird can’t it. Actually, I think it makes us the dragon.

So what does Jesus say about it then?

Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, your heart will be also.

If we’ve got a **treasure map**, it’s very easy to get a bit distracted or lost, we end up in the ….

Cliffs of Peril

Forgotten Forest

Mountains of exhaustion

Plains of peace

Caves of Lost Hope

Beach of Contentment

Isle of Isolation

This is about having a treasure map and X marks the spot, what God is saying is, the map is your life and Jesus is God’s greatest treasure, how can we find our way? (bible, other people, creation, prayer)

Importantly we are not guardians of the treasure, a fierce dragon on top of it, we’re the exact opposite, throwing the treasure everywhere and to everyone because it is treasure that NEVER runs out.

When have you shared your treasure? What does that look like? What does your faith look like in everyday life? How would anyone know you are a Christian?

Are you proclaiming the good news? Or do you want to but don’t know how?

What’s your good news, I’ve been dazzled by the treasure story?

X marks the spot…..that’s what we should be focused on, the X/Cross……it’s what shapes the whole understanding of our map.