

The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus

A Ventures for Christ Newsletter

To those hungry Disciples who long to intensify and expand their following of the Savior by taking up their cross.

Issue 28

September 2026

Words of Eternal Hidden Wisdom

Our Purpose in His Vision

All Cross Disciples must learn the secret of asking. If they obey, they have the promise of Jesus that He will hear and answer.

And the Lord Jesus Himself says, "I will open My mouth in parables. I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world" (Matt. 13:34-35).



Our Challenge in His Promise

All Christ Disciples meet with other Christians to do two things: come into His presence and joyfully worship Jesus.

"Collect for yourselves treasures in heaven," and prove my eternal wealth is Messiah Jesus in my heart (Matt. 6:19-20).



"All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him" (Col. 2:2-3), the Apostle Paul.

"But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), response of the Virgin Mother.

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1-3), the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

"Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6), Job after being rebuked by the Lord.

Our Supreme Remembrance (The Words of the Lord Jesus)

Pastor McCarty

On a hot Friday this past July, we laid to rest one of my closest and dearest friends, Jim Lindsey. At the memorial service the crowd was large—almost 1,000—but only represented a small fraction of the lives Jim had impacted in his 81 years of life on planet Earth. Jim's journey with Christ began when he accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord as a 13-year-old boy. From an early date in his walk with the Lord, he vowed to read his Bible every night, a practice he followed throughout the years, leaving a lasting impression on friends and family alike. As well as a faithful reader of Scripture, he was a faithful church member. I was humbled and gratified that my contribution to his life, as first his pastor and later a mentor as well as closest friend, was recognized during the service. My humility came from knowing there was much more I could have done, but my gratification came from knowing my efforts were "enough" to direct my dearest friend closer and closer to the cross and the One who lived, died, and rose again for him! He told me once he was a great sinner but had the assurance he had Christ in his heart as the Savior and Lord of his life. We then prayed together.

Jim was a Cross Disciple searching for the "Answer to Everything," and he found it by striving to take up the cross Jesus assigned to him. He learned that we thrive when we remember the words of the Lord Jesus and adjusted his life to the Scripture, especially John 14:15-21! We must focus on Messiah's cross words, not men's flesh words, if we are to let the pluses in life outweigh the negatives.

The flesh produces many fine sounding words, definitions, slogans, phrases, street-wise idioms, and even some noble and close to the truth doctrines, but they all fade and fail if their eternal seed is not rooted in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! The overcoming, nuclear answer to our malignant earth dilemmas is the growing comprehension of the cross of the Father as the Lord Jesus demonstrated it. There are seven phases that are necessary: 1) do I dare to conceive it, 2) do I live to carry it, 3) do I suffer His crucifixion on it, 4) do I endure the completing of its purpose, 5) do I

allow His burial as a dead human, but 6) do I then stand again in glorious triumph and power praising the promises and purposes of the Father. The Savior was then 7) resurrected and ascended as King over all the chaos of the earth.

No Christian disciple can claim to be a Jesus cross carrier unless those seven realities are increasingly incarnated in one's mind, heart, desire, and actions. The cross doesn't produce impact within and without if one is pretending. The cross carrier, a false one of human creation, sincerely but blindly makes too light of the Father's intentions. Genuine, growing Cross Disciples can ask, choose, seek, will, and accept the cross of whatever weight the Father gives them to carry. Praise for our cross will be constant as we experience having the cross weight on us that is necessary to be conformed to Christ's image.

I want to share the following verses with you and urge you to make them your own:

"But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14).

"Therefore, through Him let us continually offer up to God a cross sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name" (Heb. 13:15).

My dear Jim learned the secret of mastering the Savior's words. Looking back over the ministry he undertook, there are three ministries we would count as church, para-church, and secular ministries. Then there were his ongoing one-on-one interactions with a diverse group of individuals, from a chance meeting on the street to deep friendships and mentoring those the Lord Jesus brought to him. He acted on the Masters words: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32, KJV). Both Jim and I had our flocks given by God. I say of mine—I hope there will be at my funeral the flock I built on earth—wonder of wonders! Those special ones, like Jim, you can respect all the more.

Jim's memorial service was uplifting and empowering for the thousands of us—Jim's flock—left behind to continue in the few or many days left to us. Jim has provided us with an example of how to spend those days doing all the Lord Jesus called us to do: to ask, seek, knock, listen, obey, and endure so we may be fully and completely Cross Disciples who follow the Messiah without limits! And, in closing, I say with sincerity Jim Lindsey was as close to a complete man as I ever knew (Matt. 7:7-8; 11:28-30).¹

Notes:

¹ For more on these blessed seven principles see my article, "Suffering Sacrifices in Exchange for Bountiful Blessings" in our July 2026 issue of *The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus*.



Faithful in Little, Faithful in Much

Michael Floyd, Editor

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" (Matthew 25:21)

Our culture has a weakness for the spectacular. We celebrate the viral moment, the overnight success, and the breakthrough that seems to come from nowhere. Steadiness rarely trends. Nobody builds a following around showing up, day after day, and doing the same faithful work they did yesterday.

September has a way of returning us to that kind of work. School routines resume. Vacations end. The unglamorous rhythm of ordinary responsibility reasserts itself. It's not a season that photographs well — but it may be exactly the season Jesus speaks to most directly.

In one of His most familiar parables, a master entrusts three servants with sums of money before leaving on a journey. Two invest what they've been given and it grows. One buries his in the ground out of fear and returns exactly what he was handed. The servant's faithfulness, not the size of his gain, is what draws the commendation: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

The Faithful and True One

Before we can talk about our own faithfulness, we need to reckon with His. Scripture describes Jesus not merely as faithful in a general sense but as an embodiment of the trait — in Revelation, He rides into the world's final reckoning under a specific title: "Faithful and True" (Revelation 19:11).

What does that faithfulness look like in practice? It means every promise God has made in Christ has been kept. Paul told the Corinthians that "no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20). None of them were conditional, and none were reserved for the convenient moments — every one is secured in the person who never breaks His word.

It also means His faithfulness doesn't depend on ours. Paul wrote to Timothy from a prison cell, near the end of his life, and included a line that has steadied believers ever since: "if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). This is a remarkable claim: our faithfulness rises and falls, but His does not, because He cannot act against His own character. His commitment to us was never contingent on our performance in the first place.

This is the ground everything else stands on. Before we're asked to be faithful with anything, we're told about a Savior who already has been — completely, permanently, without exception.

Faithful to the End

Jesus didn't just teach about faithfulness. He lived it, under conditions that would have justified almost anyone giving up.

He faithfully carried out the mission the Father gave Him—through betrayal, false accusation, and a death He didn't deserve—all the way to the cross. Nothing about the opposition He faced changed His resolve. He finished what He came to do.

And His faithfulness didn't end at the resurrection. Right now, the writer of Hebrews tells us, He "is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them" (Hebrews 7:25). This is present tense. Christ is not a faithful figure from the past whose work we now simply remember — He is right now interceding on behalf of everyone who belongs to Him. That is faithfulness that has never taken a day off.

He will return, exactly as promised, to complete what He started. The consistency of His character across His mission, His intercession, and His return is the foundation for everything Scripture asks of us in response.

Be Faithful in Little Things

The parable of the talents makes an uncomfortable point: the servant who was punished wasn't the one who failed spectacularly. He was the one who did nothing with what he'd been given, out of fear of the risk involved. Faithfulness, in Jesus' framework, isn't primarily about avoiding failure. It's about stewarding well whatever has actually been placed in your hands.

That reframes what most of us think of as small. The quiet, unnoticed obligations — showing up on time, keeping a promise nobody will follow up on, doing the next right thing when no one's watching — are not lesser categories of faithfulness. They're the proving ground for it. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much" (Luke 16:10). The small things are not preparation for the real test. They *are* the test.

A life well lived isn't measured by how much attention it draws or how much it accomplishes. Rather, it's measured by whether what was entrusted was handled with integrity, over time, without needing an audience.

Well Done

The parable ends with a servant's small faithfulness answered by a master's large generosity: "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things" (Matt. 25:21-22). That's grace at work, not merit — a reward disproportionate to what was invested, because the master's joy was never really about the math.

Because Jesus has been faithful to us — completely, even when we haven't returned the favor — we're freed to be faithful with what He's entrusted to us, imperfectly and without spectacle, in the ordinary rhythms of daily life, trusting that the One who never fails is the One keeping the ledger.

Well done is waiting — not for the extraordinary, but for the faithful.

[Michael Floyd is Editor of *The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus*, the monthly newsletter of Ventures for Christ, Inc. You can find more of Michael's content at <http://thegospeltoday.online>.]



Ventures News

A New Year Begins

The buses are running again, the backpacks are packed, and another school year has begun. Teachers, coaches, and administrators carry one of the heaviest and most important loads in our society. They shape more than test scores—they shape how a generation thinks, what it believes is true, and who it trusts. The Ventures for Christ staff is praying this month for every teacher walking into a classroom, every student walking through a new door, every parent sending a child off not quite sure what the year holds, and every coach and counselor and cafeteria worker who makes a school actually run. If that's you, or someone you love, know you're not carrying it alone.

Thanks for subscribing to *The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus*! If you are encouraged by the teachings and insights of Pastor McCarty and Ventures for Christ, please share it with your friends! If you would like to update your contact information or change your subscription options, just go to venturesforchrist.com/contact-us. Email costs us nothing, but physical mail costs us postage.

Please consider supporting Ventures in the work of sharing the gospel and building Cross Disciples. You may make donations by visiting our website, **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**, or scanning the QR Code at the right. You may also send a check to Ventures for Christ at the address below.



Ventures for Christ, Inc. is a para-church organization focused on Cross Discipleship based in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Copyright © 2024 Ventures for Christ. *Hidden Treasures* is a monthly newsletter published by Ventures for Christ, Inc. Founded in 1972 by Dr. H.D. McCarty and the late Jim Lindsey, Ventures for Christ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all gifts are tax deductible as religious contributions under the Internal Revenue Code. Contact Information: PO Box 9474, Fayetteville, AR 72703-0025 * Phone: (479) 443-9474 * Email: hdm@venturesforchrist.com * Website: www.venturesforchrist.com
