

"With what measure you use it will be measured to you, and even more."

This speaks to me of studying and understanding Jesus words. "Consider carefully what you hear."

(I have to take a brief pause here and talk about the mistake I just made. When I was typing this last quote I typed read instead of hear. Was that a pause for me to consider what I write and read? It just seems too opportune to be coincidence.)

If the disciples (or anyone) heard what He had to say and spent time pondering it and seeking the meaning, understanding would be given, even deeper understanding (deeper spiritual truths) of what Jesus was sharing. Jesus parables could be received many different ways:

- 1) Something to pass the time: quickly heard and forgotten, background noise. "Even what he has is taken from him."
 - 2) Bedtime stories: stories about fables told to children to quiet them for sleep. Bed time stories are usually memorized and retold from generation to generation with little thought to the meaning, but care given to the accuracy in retelling.
 - 3) History lessons: facts and dates to be memorized so you know how a person or group of people got from a - z in their lifetime. No why needed, just how and when.
 - 4) Biography: following one person's life story and listing what they had done. A little more understanding into the specific person but no questions asked to know more.
 - 5) An archaeological dig: each piece carefully uncovered to preserve its original form and use. Careful sifting of the area around, careful records of what was discovered. Inferences made about its original intent. Questions raised about its original users. Some ideas of how it impacted history but little use today beyond historical value. Museum pieces.
 - 6) A treasure map: each clue draws you closer to the real prize. Each clue has to be considered carefully so as not to get the wrong meaning and go in a wrong direction. These clues are not simple "go 4 paces, then turn left" instructions but simple to deep directions to lead you on your journey. If you stay to looking at the simplest forms of the clues you can be misdirected or miss warnings or small rewards on the way. By truly studying the clues you realize that there are extra layers of understanding hidden within them. They warn of traps on the way. They tell where tools you will need later may be found. They encourage you for your hard work. They give incentives and provisions for your journey. They excite you about the final treasure. If these clues bring so much wealth along the way just imagine what waits at the end of the journey! Sometimes you feel frustrated by the clues because you can't seem to understand them, but when you consider carefully the clues of the past and grasp an understanding of the Author from His works, undiscovered truths open your eyes and let you see the clue's purpose and intent.
- Keep me searching Your treasure map God!