

## Treasure Found

There was a brief, poignant segment on the *ABC Evening News* a few nights ago.

An emergency room doctor was describing the exhaustion and emotional gut punches he was experiencing while treating critically ill Covid-19 patients in Miami.

“I’m overwhelmed and completely drained...

But this is my work. This what I was trained to do. This is what I’m “wired” to do. This is my life’s calling. So, I can’t even imagine stepping away. This is what I must do. So, I find ways to keep on going...”

As exhausted and overwhelmed as he is, that ER doc is blessed. He is thoroughly blessed.

He has found his purpose. He knows his path.

Discoveries like this go to the heart of Sunday’s gospel:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field...Or like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.” (Matthew 13: 44-45)

Wealth can be measured in lots of ways: money, health, leisure time, good friends. But finding your purpose, what God has called you to be, is perhaps the greatest wealth.

I've known lots of folks who have been blessed with the wealth, health and friends. But when a sense of purpose is missing, a huge piece of life is missing.

That doctor was finding his purpose in an ER. Another finds it teaching math to 2nd graders. Others discover it by training their voices so that their songs sooth the soul. Some find their calling at the altar, beckoning a community to "lift up their hearts" in gratitude for the gift of being alive. Another treasures the privilege of praying for those whose lives feel desperate. Still another stands up and speaks up for those who have no voice.

Recognize your piece of the Kingdom, your pearl, the treasure that's yours to hold and yours to share. This is the path that will give you purpose even when you are utterly exhausted and overwhelmed.

"The adventure of our existence is not just staying alive but finding a purpose to live for." *Fyodor Dostoevsky*

At whatever point of you're at, pray to find and hold on to that priceless pearl; the treasure of a purpose to live for.

In our quest may we become a blessing to others.

*Fr. Steven Labaire*