

"THE GREAT DISCOVERY"**Introduction**

1. A wonderful chapter, surely.
2. The question is: "What does it mean?"
3. It is worthy of our study

1. THE IDENTITY OF THE SPEAKER HERE

- 1) A person of great majesty:
 - (i) blessing to obey
 - (ii) lives in palace
 - (iii) to find Him is life
 - (iv) to hate Him is death

OBSERVATION: No earthly king could so speak (Solomon).
- 2) Evidence from this chapter:
 - (i) v.23: He existed before the Creation
 - (ii) v.30: He is intimately related to God
 - (iii) v.31: He is deeply interested in people
- 3) The Person here is the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - (i) Christ began His Mediation after the Fall
 - (ii) His Priesthood shadowed by OT worship
 - (iii) His Prophetic ministry by OT scripture
 - (iv) His Kingship seen at the Exodus, Babylon...

2. THE GREAT DISCOVERY SET BEFORE US

- 1) "Who so findeth me...life", i.e. eternal life
- 2) **Q.** What is the greatest discovery of all?
A. America ("New World"), etc, etc.
 No! The greatest is: to find Christ as Saviour

- 3) This is what OT saints found:
Ex. Noah – Abraham – Samuel – Manasseh...
- 4) In NT Gospels, we see the same:
Ex. Legion – Woman of Samaria – Thief
DOCTRINE: There is one supremely great experience:
 To find Christ as your personal Saviour
- 5) Thos who find Christ find life + blessing:
 - (i) the forgiveness of sins: "Go in peace"
 - (ii) the key to the Bible: "watching daily"
 - (iii) "joy unspeakable": deep happiness of heart
ILLUSTRATION: Paul and Silas in prison
- 6) This is the world's greatest discovery:
 - (i) the pearl of great price
 - (ii) the treasure hid in a field
APPLICATION: If you do as Christ tells you, this discovery will be yours (v.34)

3. THE FOLLY OF SINNING AGAINST CHRIST

- 1) "But" (v.36): there are 2 sides to every moral choice:
 - (i) broad / narrow way
 - (ii) open your eyes / shut them...
- 2) Christ here warns against sinning:
 - (i) refusing to obey the gospel
 - (ii) no prayer to God for His grace
 - (iii) love of the world rather than of God
 - (iv) pleasure in time but pain in eternity
- 3) This text places a moral choice before us all:
 - (i) Listen to Christ's welcome
 - (ii) Be assured you are welcome
 - (iii) To turn it down is perilous
APPLICATION: "All that hate me love death"!

PSALM

30: 1 – 6

32: 7 – 11

110: 1 – 4

CONCLUSION

Illustration: Howard Carter's find.
 Much better that of all believers!