

Gold Digger

By What If?

Once, there lived a young man named David who longed for adventure. After years of city life and routine, he decided to escape to the hills for a weekend camping trip. Packing his gear, he set off to find a place of peace and solitude, hoping the fresh mountain air and quiet would help him rediscover a sense of purpose.

David found the perfect spot—a clearing nestled by a stream, surrounded by towering pines. He set up his tent, built a small fire, and settled in to enjoy the beauty of nature. Just as the sun dipped behind the hills, he heard the crunch of footsteps on the forest floor. Alarmed, he turned, expecting an animal, but instead saw an old man approaching with a weathered face and a kind, almost mischievous smile.

“Don’t be afraid,” the old man said, raising his hands. “I mean you no harm.”

David relaxed slightly but remained cautious. “Who are you?” he asked.

“Just an old soul who’s wandered these hills for years,” the man replied. “But my time here is nearly up, and I have something to share with you—a gift.”

David raised an eyebrow. “What kind of gift?”

The old man leaned closer, his voice dropping to a whisper. “A gold mine.”

David’s heart raced. “A gold mine? Out here?”

The old man nodded. “About two miles up the hill. It’s untouched, and it’s yours if you want it.”

“Why would you give it to me?”

“Because I can’t take it with me,” the old man said, a trace of sadness in his eyes. “But there’s one condition: You must dig for the gold alone, and you must tell no one. If you bring anyone else to the mine, it will collapse, and the gold will be lost forever.”

David hesitated, the old man’s words both tempting and unsettling. But greed tugged at his heart. He shook the old man’s hand. “Deal.”

The old man handed David a map, then turned to leave. “Wait!” David called after him. “What’s your name?”

The old man paused, a strange glint in his eye. “You’ll know soon enough,” he said, disappearing into the forest.

From that day, David became obsessed. Every weekend, he hiked to the secret mine, following the old man's map. At first, the gold came in small nuggets—a handful here, a handful there. It wasn't much, but it was enough to keep him coming back.

As the years passed, his life changed. He abandoned his career, distanced himself from friends and family, and eventually moved to a small cabin near the mine. His world shrank to the size of his shovel and pickaxe.

Then, one day—thirty-five years after he first met the old man—David struck the motherlode. A cavern of pure gold glittered before him, more wealth than he could have imagined. Trembling with excitement, he began to gather the treasure.

As he climbed out of the mine with his first load, he slipped on loose gravel. His head struck a sharp rock, and everything went black.

David awoke to find himself standing beside his own lifeless body. A figure emerged from the shadows—the old man. But he was no longer frail or kind. His eyes burned like coals, and a sinister smile spread across his face.

“Who are you?” David whispered.

The old man laughed. “I told you we'd meet again. I am Lucifer, and you've been digging your own grave for thirty-five years.”

David's spirit trembled. “What do you mean?”

“You wasted your life chasing gold,” Lucifer said. “You could have used your time to help others, to love, to serve. Instead, you chose greed. And now, your soul belongs to me.”

David fell to his knees, sobbing. “But I didn't know...”

Lucifer sneered. “The truth was always in front of you. You ignored it.”

In the distance, David heard another voice—a voice full of love and sorrow.

“David,” He called, “I am Yeshua the Resurrection and the Life. Your mother and father are standing by My side crying ”

David turned, but Lucifer's grip tightened. “It's too late for him,” he hissed.

The story ends with a question for the reader: *What treasure are you digging for in life?*

Matthew 16:25-26 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul? Or what will a man give *as* an exchange for his soul?

