



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Treasure!**

**Matthew 13:44-53**

Message #37 of 80 – S1067

**Sermon given on October 15, 2023**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The King's Treasure!**

***Matthew 13:44-53***

## **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 13**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## **Teaching**

- **The King's Treasure!**
- Last time we looked at four of eight parables in Matthew 13.
- Today we will look at the last four.
- The first two of these four are similar to each other.
- **Matthew 13:44-46**
- The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price seem to convey the same lesson.
- The difference between them is that the first was not looking for the treasure and the other was actively seeking it.
- The response of both was the same – to sell all they had to make the treasure their own.
- In the parable of the hidden treasure the man seems to stumble upon treasure hidden in a field.
- There were no banks at the time of Christ.
- The treasure is salvation in Christ.
- In salvation there are three parts – discovery, response, and commitment.
- Once someone realizes the importance of the gospel message, they will be willing to give up everything to possess it.
- People looking into this man's life would imagine him insane or at least a fool.
- Better to look like a fool and take hold of the treasure than to look as sane as everyone else and miss it.
- Turn to (**Mark 10**)

- In the parable of the hidden treasure, the worker wasn't looking for the treasure but responded when he found it.
- In parable of the pearl, the person is actively seeking a treasure.
- The point of both parables is a willingness to surrender all to obtain what is most precious in this life.
- Christ is such an endless treasure and precious pearl that He is worthy of the sacrifice of all that we must give to obtain Him.
- The sense is that these men believed they were getting something more precious than all they possessed.
- Christ once told a rich man to sell all he had and follow Him.
- **Mark 10:17-21**
- It was too high a price for the young man, but it would have been worth it.
- That, of course, is a message for people who may be hesitating to come to Christ – it is worth it – whatever the cost.
- Turn back to **Matthew 13**
- When you were saved you may have been very willing to give Christ everything.
- Are you still willing to give Him everything?
- Now we have the seventh of eight parables in this chapter.
- **Matthew 13:47-48**
- This is another parable, like the wheat and the tares, that tells us that the good and evil will coexist until the end of the age.
- As an unbeliever I struggled with what I saw in the church.
- I don't know where the notion came from, but I expected everyone who claimed to be a Christian to act differently than the rest of the world.
- Even though I wouldn't have said it this way – I expected them to act like Jesus.
- I expected them to be perfectly good. That wasn't fair. Impossible!
- The visible church is not perfect – far from it.
- It is not perfect because none of the people in the church are perfect.
- And because we don't verify people's faith at the door, some people come into the church who are far from God.

- Some of them are just acting like Christians but aren't really saved. Some of them have their own ideas about what Christianity is that aren't Christ's idea of Christianity.
- And some come into the church who seek to take advantage of others.
- We don't tell them they can't come to church.
- In fact, we want them here.
- We want them to bring their imperfections here and mix them with our imperfections.
- And then, together, we will work with God's Holy Spirit and His perfect Word to become more like His perfect Son, Christ Jesus.
- The church was never meant to be a place for perfect people.
- It is a hospital for the hurting and wounded.
- It is a training ground for those God is calling to serve Him.
- It is a place of fellowship and community for the lonely and disenfranchised.
- The church is a place where we lay down the labels this world has placed on each of us and as equals, we worship Almighty God.
- To any unbelievers here or watching this, you are welcome here.
- We are not going to try to make you believe something you don't want to. We couldn't even if we tried.
- Our purpose is to love you with the love God gave us for you.
- We are going to tell you the truth we believe changes people for the good, but we understand that not everyone believes what we believe.
- We're going to try to model with our lives the life Jesus came to give us all.
- Our goal is perfection, but we all know that we are still a lifetime away from that perfection.
- We believe Christ is the greatest treasure and what He offers is the most precious thing in the universe.
- Find a church that loves Jesus and His Word and let them love you like your heavenly Father loves you.
- This is matter of great importance to us because we believe what verses 49 and 50 say.
- **Matthew 13:49-50**

- ‘the end of the age’ is the Second Coming of Christ – when He returns to establish His kingdom on the earth.
- One of the things Jesus will do is separate the wicked from the just.
- Turn to **Romans 3**
- There are only two groups – the wicked and the just.
- All humanity will be separated by those two descriptions.
- The apostle Paul talked about those who are the ‘just’.

- **Romans 3:22b-26**

- We become one of the just through faith in Christ.
- There are no degrees of how just you are.
- You are one of the just ones or you are not.
- And if you are not one of the just ones you are one of the wicked ones.

- Turn back to **Matthew 13**

- At the end of the age the separation will take place.

- Jesus talked about that. (**Matthew 25:31-33**)

**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

- In the same way we could easily see the difference between sheep and goats, the angels will be able to see the difference between the wicked and the just.
- This should also be a warning to everyone in the church.
- The visible church has both good and bad in it.
- First, we must be confident that we are one of the good fish, the just, through a real and living faith in Christ.
- Just because you are in the church doesn’t mean you are one of the good ones.

- Make sure (**2 Peter 1:10-11**)!

**Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

- Second, be willing to help the bad fish become good fish.
- The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price teach us that Christ is worth more than all we could ever possess.

- Once we have Him, or He has us, our greatest desire should be to help others find what we have.
- If you spent your whole life to help just one person meet Jesus it would be a life well-lived.
- No one knows when the end of the age will come.
- We might be closer than we imagine. Are we ready? Are those you love ready? If not, don't wait, get them ready now!
- The consequence of not finding salvation in Christ is too horrible to imagine – wailing and gnashing of teeth in unquenchable fire.
- We began this chapter with Jesus saying the disciples were given the privilege of understanding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.
- Jesus asks them if they are getting it.
- **Matthew 13:51-53**
- Christianity is to be understood to be experienced.
- God gave us His word so that we could know and understand as much about Him and the kingdom of heaven as He has revealed to mankind.
- 'Have you understood...' places the responsibility on the disciples to understand.
- This is not about the disciples being able to understand but being willing to let God give them understanding.
- The same is true for all of us.
- If you are a true Christ-follower, you can understand God's Word.
- When you come to something you don't understand ask God for three things:
- First, ask God to help you to be willing to understand.
- Second, ask God to help you to be willing to obey whatever He reveals to you.
- There is no reason for God to help you to understand if you are unwilling to obey.
- Third, ask God to give you understanding.
- Notice, it is all about God.
- The eighth parable may not actually be a parable, but it has the tone of one.
- The scribe were experts in what we call the Old Testament.

- The kingdom of heaven was revealed through Christ and His teachings.
- Jesus' teachings do not eliminate the need for the Old Testament.
- It is through Jesus' teachings that we better interpret the old.
- Do you understand? We can! We must!
- It is through understanding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven that we make it possible for others to glimpse it for themselves.
- God gave us His Word so that we could know Him and His kingdom.
- Make it your life's goal to understand as much of it as possible.
- It will reveal great treasures to you, and you will find very precious things in this book. - **Pray**
- Worship Team plays song.