

Matthew 13:44-53 - The King's Treasure!

Scriptures:

44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like

treasure hidden in a field, which a man found

G2344 -

G2928 -

G2147 -

and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells

G2928 -

G5479 -

all that he has and buys that field.

Notes:

Parable #5 Of 8.

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.

What does it mean that this treasure was hidden? There were no banks at the time of Christ. It was a common practice to hide treasure and surplus money somewhere outside of the home to protect it from robbers and thieves. If you own the land, anything hidden in that land belongs to you.

Could this refer to the 'mysteries of the kingdom of heaven' they were given to understand. This seems to be so because at the end of this chapter Jesus asks them if they understand.

The treasure is salvation in Christ. In salvation there is 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.

There is joy in the discovery of Christ through forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

'...sells all that he has...' – 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 treasure than to look as sane as everyone else and miss it.

Scriptures:

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a

Notes:

Parable #6 of 8.

In the previous parable, the worker wasn't looking for the treasure but responded when he found it. In this one, the person is actively seeking a treasure.

merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

Scriptures:

Mark 10:17-21 -

Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

46 who, when he had found one pearl

Notes:

The point of both parables is a willingness to surrender all to obtain what is most precious in this life.

“We see, in this simple picture, the conduct of a true Christian explained. He is what he is, and does what he does in his religion, because he is thoroughly persuaded that it is worthwhile.” (Ryle, 1993) page 110

of great price, went and sold all that he had

G4186 – valuable, expensive.

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.

and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a



dragnet that was cast into the sea

and gathered some of every kind,

Our goal is perfection, but we all know that we are still a lifetime away from 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.

Notes:
Parable #7 of 8.

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.

‘every kind’ – All are alike sinners but not all sinners are alike.

The dragnet is the influence of the kingdom of God in the world, including the work of the church and individual believers. Everything God is doing on the world is drawing all humanity toward the final sorting of good and bad.

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. The visible church is not perfect. It is not perfect because none of the people 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 hospitable 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.

⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore;

Notes:
Only two groups – good and bad.

and they sat down and gathered the good

into vessels, but threw the bad away.

Scriptures:

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. 32 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. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Romans 3:22b-26 - For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The

angels will come forth, separate the wicked

G873 – exclude, get rid of.

G4190 – evil, bad, morally corrupt.

from among the just,

G1342 - righteous, just, upright, i.e., being in accordance with God's compelling standards.

Notes:

'separate' – Jesus talked about when this separation will take place (Matthew 25:31-33). Speaking of the Second Coming.

'just' – Some define this as being in a right relationship with God. This almost puts the responsibility on the believer. Justification is God's work – faith is the believer's work (Romans 3:22b-26).

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 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)! 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!

Scriptures:

50 and cast them into the furnace of fire.

Notes:

This is the destiny of all who are not a part of the kingdom of heaven through faith in Jesus Christ.

There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

G2805 – weeping, crying.

G1030 - gnashing of teeth, grinding the teeth, a sign of torment and anguish, possibly anger.

Scriptures:

51 Jesus said to them, "Have you understood

G4920 -

Notes:
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.

all these things?" They said to Him,

'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.

"Yes, Lord."

Scriptures:

52 Then He said to them, “Therefore

every scribe instructed concerning the

G3100 -

kingdom of heaven is like a householder who

brings out of his treasure *things* new and

old.”

Notes:
Parable #8 of 8.

Why does Jesus use a scribe in this illustration?

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.

53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had

finished these parables, that He departed

from there.

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