

Parable of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Price
Matthew 13:44-46

Hidden Treasure

v. 44

Elements of the Parable

- 1) Treasure
- 2) A Field
- 3) A Man
- 4) Personal Possessions

Treasure is Found

- Here we see Jesus teaching on the nature of the Kingdom of God.
- He has used several different parables to convey different aspects of the Kingdom.
- He has taught how the Kingdom grows(Sower and Seed), how small it started(Mustard Seed), and the nature in which the enemy seeks to destroy it.(Weeds)
- Here Jesus compares the Kingdom to a hidden treasure.
- I get two mental pictures when I read this verse.

A Worker

- The first mental picture I get is of a man who is working in a field.
- He's planting something or he's been hired to do some landscaping work.
- He's been chopping, digging, planting, etc. all day in the hot sun when all of a sudden his shovel strikes something hard in the ground.
- He thinks to himself, "That didn't feel like a rock".
- So he begins to investigate and when he does he finds a treasure of untold value.

The Traveler

- The second scenario I see is a man is traveling from one town to another and he sees a field in which he can take a rest.
- He finds a nice shady spot, takes off his sandal and outer garment, and looks around at the beautiful scenery.
- He decides to take a walk through the idyllic field when he stubs his toe on something slightly raised from beneath the dirt.
- He falls to the ground and looks around to see if anyone saw him fall.
- He then goes to see what it was that made him trip and he finds the most wonderful treasure he's ever seen.

A Decision is Made

- He's now at a crossroads.
- He looks around to see if anyone else has seen what's happened and, when the coast is clear, he buries the treasure again so it wouldn't be discovered by anyone else.
- No one saw him dig up the treasure so he could simply take it and no one would ever know.
- The owner likely doesn't even know it's there.
- He's no thief so he decides to be quiet about it and track down the owner so that he can purchase the entire field along with the treasure that it contains.

Buying the Field

- Once he finds the owner of the field he asks him how much he would sell it for.
- The owner gives his price but the man simply doesn't have this type of money.
- The man in Jesus' parable is obviously not a wealthy man with cash on hand.

- So what does he do?
- In *drudgery*, goes and sells all of his possessions...not quite.
- The Bible says *in his joy* he sold all that he had in order to raise the funds to buy the property along with the treasure that only he knew about.

Pearl of Great Price

v. 45-46

Elements of the Parable

- 1) Merchant
- 2) Fine Pearls
- 3) Personal Possessions

Pearl of Great Price

- Jesus continues with an economics based parable.
- Earlier He used agrarian elements but here He's using value.
- Here we see a merchant is traveling the world in search of fine pearls.
- His occupation is likely to travel, seek, find and/or purchase fine pearls, and then resell them at a higher price.
- He is not a collector as denoted by his job title of merchant.
- During one of his travels he finds a pearl that is far greater than all of the other pearls he has found before.
- Even with all of his wealth, business connections, and line of credit he cannot afford this pearl.
- What does he do?
- He sold all of his possessions including his home to purchase this one pearl.

The Principle of Value

- In our day the truth is under attack.
- We are told that there are various forms of the truth.
- In other words, truth is subjective based on the time, the circumstances, and the people involved.
- As Christians we reject this notion because humans are not the arbiters of truth...God is.
- However, the principle of value is not so cut and dry.
- Everything has some sort of value or worth but that is entirely dependent on one thing: what something is willing to pay for it.
- You and I have different opinions and monetary values applied to different things in our lives.
- I tend to get attached to things.
- Not that I am materialistic but I am sentimental.
- My sentimentality may cause me to raise the price on something before I sell it simply because I have good memories with it.
- Of course a prospective buyer has no such connection to the object and therefore will try to haggle me down.
- In these two parables we see two men who find two very valuable things.
- In their estimation these objects are worth more than anything they had ever seen before.
- This is evidenced by the fact that they are willing to sell everything that they own without a second thought simply so they could purchase this ONE thing.

Application of the Parables

- Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is like the great hidden treasure or the pearl of great price.
- How does this apply to us practically?
- Look at the elements of the parables.
- Each one of them has a man, a valuable object, and personal possessions involved.
- In both scenarios the man takes his personal possessions and sells them in order to purchase this one great valuable item.
- This means that he has no house to live in, no clothes except what he is wearing, no tricked out camel to ride on...nothing.
- He sold EVERYTHING that he had to procure ONE thing.
- Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to this most valuable object.
- He is teaching that it is worth giving up everything else to pursue.

Kingdom Citizenship

- Our citizenship in the Kingdom is the greatest gift that we have been given.
- Due to our sin nature we are not only excluded from the Kingdom but we are enemies of it.
- We as humans have committed cosmic treason against a thrice holy God.
- Once the Father brings us into His kingdom we are made sons and daughters; heirs of the promise of Christ.
- As evidenced by the conduct of the men in the parable, this gift is worthy of forsaking everything else in order to pursue it.
- There is nothing that should take precedence over it.

Matthew 16:24-26

- Jesus tells us that whoever is to follow Him must do it completely.
- He tells us that if someone devotes their life to Christ instead of their own selfish ambition that they will keep their life.
- On the flip side, if someone loves their life and tries to keep it for themselves that they will lose it.
- Of course Jesus is speaking in spiritual terms here.
- He's not saying that people will die physically if they pursue their own desires but they will not inherit eternal life.

Luke 14:25-27

- Jesus tells us that we are to hate our mother and father, our children, and even our own selves in order to follow Him.
- What does this mean?
- Does Jesus want us to hate our parents?
- Does He want us to despise our children or ourselves?
- No, in fact we are commanded to love our spouses and children.
- We are called to honor our parents so what does this mean?
- This passage simply means that our love for Christ must be so great that it makes everything else pale in comparison.
- Our love for Christ should dwarf every other love that we have on this earth, even good love such as love for other people.

There is no greater gift to be had than that of being in the kingdom of God and knowing Christ as Savior and Lord therefore our lives should reflect that.

