

# The Parable of the Hidden Treasure & the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

## MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

When the apostle Paul reflected on his life experiences, he observed that his greatest human accomplishments were like rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:7-9). Even though he had much to be proud of, Paul willingly gave it all up so that he might know Christ and be found in Him. Although the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price are some of the shortest parables of Jesus, their rich imagery powerfully expresses what Paul learned to be true, that Jesus Christ is the greatest treasure that any person could ever hope to attain.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 13:44-46

## TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To present and exegete the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price in Matthew 13:44-46.
2. To examine subjective and objective ideas of value.
3. To discuss the need for fallen humans to value the things that God values.
4. To exalt Jesus Christ as supremely valuable, worthy of abandoning all for the sake of receiving Him.

## QUOTATIONS

*Those who would have a saving interest in Christ must be willing to part with all for him, leave all to follow him. Whatever stands in opposition to Christ, or in competition with him for our love and service, we must cheerfully quit it, though ever so dear to us. –Matthew Henry*

*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. He comes out from the world; he puts off the old man; he forsakes the vain companions of his past life. Like Matthew, he gives up everything, and like Paul, he counts “all things loss” for Christ’s sake. And why? Because he is convinced that Christ will make amends to him for all he gives up. He sees in Christ an endless “treasure,” he sees in Christ a precious “pearl”: to win Christ he will make any sacrifice. This is true faith. This is the stamp of a genuine work of the Holy Ghost. –J.C. Ryle*

## BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Dr. Sproul, what is the difference between the economic concept of value and the ethical notion of values? Why is this difference significant?
2. Why is it so often necessary for our value systems to be remade according to the things that God values? How does this process come about?
3. What are some of the things that you value most? How has your sense of value changed as a result of knowing Christ? How does He represent the fulfillment of some of these things that you value?
4. In both of these parables, the main characters sell all of their possessions in order to obtain something of greater worth. How has Jesus called upon you to make sacrifices for Him? What has been the most difficult thing for you to give up for the sake of Christ? How has He shown Himself to be faithful?