

KINGDOM TREASURE

Matthew 13:44

Have you ever treasured something so much that you were willing to sacrifice anything just to have it?

Sacrificing isn't easy and it sure isn't always a whole lot of fun. But we make sacrifices because in our hearts we treasure something so much that we're willing to give up what's important to us so that we can gain something of greater value.

It could be the father who gives up something he loves to spend more time with his family, the mother who sets aside some of her own aspirations to be able to dedicate her days to raising her children, or it's the person who donates their time and talents to serve their local church. The question I want us to ask ourselves is what do we treasure most? Because what we treasure will be what we sacrifice for.

You might be thinking, "I don't know if I treasure something enough to sacrifice for it." You may not be able to recognize it right now but I guarantee you if we pulled up your social media we would see what's important to you. If you don't have social media then check your bank account and see what you spend your money on. If you want to avoid your bank account right now just ask people that are close to you what you treasure because it will be what you talk about the most.

Even though these are valuable, when we look in scripture Jesus shows us something of immensely greater value and that's the Kingdom of Heaven. So, then the question for us becomes, **"would you be willing to sacrifice for the Kingdom of Heaven?"**

Not because that's what good Christians are "supposed to do" but because we're confident that the return on our sacrifice is far greater and much more valuable than what we could give up?

Most of us don't think about the Kingdom of Heaven this way; we see it as something in the background or something only the Pastor sacrifices for. When in reality whenever we sacrifice for the Kingdom of Heaven we're investing in what really matters

I believe this message is important because when the church knows the value of the Kingdom of Heaven we will be willing to sacrifice for it and in doing so will cause the light of Christ to shine in the midst of our dark world.

In our study today we will be looking at what makes the Kingdom of Heaven worth sacrificing for by looking at three points.

- Mysteries of the Kingdom
- Value of the Kingdom
- Cost of the Kingdom

Context: In this chapter Jesus has been teaching all day to a large crowd about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Later in the day, after the crowd was gone, the disciples wanting to learn more approached Jesus and asked Him to continue telling them about the Kingdom of Heaven. As we will see in verse 44, what Jesus says to the disciples isn't for the crowds; this is a private teaching just for them. As we dive into this verse we will get a glimpse of what this private conversation was like and learn from what Jesus had to say about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mysteries of the Kingdom

The reason Jesus says “again,” is because for the majority of this chapter He has been emphasizing what the kingdom of Heaven is like through multiple parables.

A parable by definition is a story of comparison that's put alongside something else to help communicate a specific point or lesson. The problem with parables is that they aren't clear and many times instead of bringing clarity they presented a challenge for the listener. That challenge was for the listener to find out its meaning on their own. Jesus did this many times. In **Matthew 9:13** Jesus said – **But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'** **For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.** This is an example of a hidden meaning in a parable that presented a challenge for the listener to find out the hidden truth behind the parable.

Jesus didn't always speak in parables but leading up to chapter 13 He was very clear in telling people who He was, what frustrated Him, and what He was on earth to do. Over time as the word got out about Jesus the crowds grew around Him; and you would think that Jesus would be happy about this but Jesus knew that these large crowds of people didn't always come seeking to learn from Him but to be entertained.

As a result Jesus spoke to them in parables, and at one point the disciples asked Him in [Matthew 13:10-11](#) “Why do you speak to them in parables”? Jesus responds by saying, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given.” Initially, when we read this we think, “that’s kind of messed up,” “why wouldn’t Jesus share the hidden things with everyone and not just His disciples?” Jesus did this for two reasons:

- **Spiritual truth requires action** – Parables, metaphorically speaking, “put the ball in the listeners’ court.” It challenges the listener to prevent spiritual truth from “going in one ear and out the other,” but to take action by chewing on it again and again until the meaning is clear. For those that do this and apply its meaning to their lives it causes them to either humble their hearts, repent, or grow in spiritual maturity. But this isn’t always the case with spiritual truth.
 - There are those who when they hear spiritual truth do nothing with it. They marvel at it and give the proverbial “mmmm, that’s good,” and do nothing else with it. The fact is Spiritual truth isn’t meant to be admired from your seat; it’s meant to be digested in your heart. That means investigating what was taught from God’s word and meditating on it during the week and finding ways to apply it to our lives.
- **Fulfillment of prophecy** – By speaking in parables Jesus also fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah. [Isaiah 6:9-10](#) speaking of Israel God told Isaiah - “*Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ ‘Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.’*”
 - The reason this was prophesied against Israel was because they literally closed their ears to the truth that God was trying to give them. In the book of Acts we get a graphic example of how bad this was. The religious leaders of that time refused to hear a young man named Stephen testify against them because they had rejected Gods prophets and ultimately killed Jesus. [Acts 7:57-58a](#) *Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*
 - Israel wanted nothing to do with the spiritual truth God was trying to give them, and in their rejection, God allowed their hearts to become so hard that they were willing to react this way against people who tried to speak truth to them.

- The interesting thing about “truth,” is that even if you reject it, it’s still truth. It doesn’t suddenly become a lie because you chose not to accept it. Like Israel, those who willingly reject the truth of God’s word only harden their hearts to the one thing that can truly bring life.

Kingdom Treasure is accepting the challenge to not just hear spiritual truth, but to work at applying it to our lives. Then we will know the

Value of the Kingdom

Matthew, in his gospel, refers to the Kingdom of Heaven many times in his letter, but to this day many believers are confused about what it means. So, how do we describe “the Kingdom of Heaven?”

Broadly speaking it’s the eternal and sovereign rule of God over the entire universe. It also represents God’s spiritual rule over the lives of those who willingly submit to God’s authority. This includes the literal rule of Christ in the future millennial kingdom.

In our text Jesus describes the Kingdom of heaven as “hidden treasure,” something with so much immeasurable value that you would sacrifice everything of value just to have it.

But what makes the Kingdom of Heaven so valuable? I believe there are three reasons why the Kingdom of Heaven is so valuable.

Peace with God

To understand what it means to have peace with God we first have to understand that human beings, because of sin, are enemies of God. This is because we inherited our sin nature from our first parents, Adam and Eve, from Genesis 3. *Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.* Because of this we are born with a natural desire to rebel against God. Our rebellion is sin and because God is a God of justice He must judge sin.

In this state we would be destined for the judgment of God. Even if we tried to avoid it by trying to be a good enough person, it wouldn’t save us. No matter how hard we try.

In this state we were hopeless and that’s where God stepped in by sending His Son

Jesus. Jesus took on the full penalty of what we deserved by dying on the cross for our sins and three days later rising from the dead **Colossians 1:21-22** *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight*

Because our debt of sin was fulfilled by Jesus we are no longer enemies but beloved children of God **1 John 3:1a** *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*

Peace with God makes the Kingdom of Heaven valuable

Personal relationship with God

Because Jesus has paid the price for the sins of the world, anyone who wants to be a son or daughter of God just needs to believe in Him by faith. To do this it means realizing our need for Him, admitting we are sinners, and by faith receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Why a personal relationship? To understand this we have to look back at Genesis. In the beginning Adam and Eve walked with God and talked with Him directly, but because of sin mankind became disconnected from God. Therefore, after Jesus death and resurrection, mankind's relationship with God is restored when we enter into a personal relationship with Him.

Those who have a personal relationship with God have a promise of their salvation by the Spirit of God. **Ephesians 1:13** *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.* The Spirit of God not only confirms to the believer that they are saved from the judgment of God, but it also ushers in a "new nature." **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* This means that for those that trust Christ they are no longer slaves to their sin nature and now have the power to walk in victory over sin itself.

As a result of this relationship, Christians are motivated to build the kingdom of Heaven through fulfilling the great commission by how they live their lives.

Getting to have a personal relationship with God makes the Kingdom of Heaven valuable

A New Home

Because we have peace with God, Earth is no longer our final destination but we have A NEW HOME! In **John 14:2-3** Jesus says - *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

To enter this New Home we must be absent from the body (**2 Corinthians 5:8**). To be “absent” from one’s body simply means physical death. When we die the spirit is separated from the body and moves into an eternal state.

But wait, isn’t death a bad thing?

Death for the believer is not some unknown thing we have to fear. In-fact death for the believer is like “going home.” We are going home to be with our King face to face! It’s in His presence that we will experience eternal joy, and every pain, sin, and sorrow will be wiped away! An added bonus is that we will be reunited with friends and loved ones who have gone before us.

When we understand how valuable the Kingdom of Heaven is then we will be willing to pay the....

Cost of the Kingdom

During this period of time it was very common to hide your valuables in a field. This doesn’t make any sense to us today because we can put our valuables in a bank or a safe, but back then those didn’t really exist. That’s because at the time there was a lot of unrest in the culture and your valuables could be stolen or taken by those in power. As a result, most people would bury their valuables on their land.

As a result, according to Jewish tradition, if someone discovered something valuable buried in field that was owned by someone else, they couldn’t claim it because it they didn’t own the land. However, if the landowner sold the land, and the new owner discovered something valuable buried on the land, the previous landowner couldn’t claim it either. This is why the man who found the treasure didn’t just take it and run.

Personally, after reading this story I wanted to ask, “Why was this man able to spot this treasure?” Because his eyes were open!

The truth is that encountering the Kingdom of Heaven can only happen by the Spirit of God opening our eyes and hearts. *Ephesians 1:18-19* *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

- People that believe in Christ didn't give their life to him because they were convinced by some "argument," it was simply the spirit of God revealed to their hearts who Jesus is and what He has done for them through the gospel. God doesn't just do this for a select few but all mankind is drawn to Jesus by the Spirit of God. *John 16:8* *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:* The Spirit expresses to the world of who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

But that does not guarantee that all who experience this truth will receive it. *John 3:19* *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.* The writer of the Gospel of John explains that people willingly reject the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done, because they would rather have darkness.

- **Another Commentator said:** Those who consciously reject Jesus often present themselves as heroic characters who bravely put away superstition and "childish things" to deal honestly with real life. It is far more often true that there is a moral compromise at the root of their rejection. In other words, no matter the evidence, they willingly choose to reject Christ, and don't want Him to rule over them.
 - In a way, they think this brings "freedom," but apart from Christ we are all blind and enslaved to sin's grip on us. Real freedom is found by humbling ourselves before Christ and giving our lives to Him. That is where freedom is found.

And for Joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field

This person, who already had possessions, was willing to sell everything he had just to gain this new treasure. In this story, Jesus is illustrating that the value of the Kingdom of Heaven is worth so much that losing everything on earth, but getting the kingdom, is a happy trade-off. **One Commentator said:** The worth of having God ruling over you and, for you, over everything else. It's not hard to see why that is so valuable. If the omnipotent, all-wise God is ruling over all things for your joy,

everything must be working for your good, no matter how painful. And in the end God will triumph over all evil and all pain. So, this kingdom is a treasure.

I want to be very clear; Jesus is in no way saying that the Kingdom of Heaven can be purchased with riches, but He is saying that to gain the Kingdom it will cost you everything. In other words, you can't expect to gain the Kingdom of Heaven and hold back parts of who you are. It will cost your whole life....your whole heart.

- Even when we gain the Kingdom of Heaven, you must understand that there is a “catch” and that's that those who gain the Kingdom must treasure it more than anything else. Why? Because what you treasure reveals where your heart is, (Matthew 6:21) and if the Kingdom isn't where your heart is then you are missing the true value of Kingdom.

In conclusion:

My prayer is that in our time together that God has changed how we think about the Kingdom of Heaven; that it's not something we give little attention to, but something so valuable that we are willing to sacrifice anything for it, and be confident that what we receive in return is greater than what we gave up.

Our prayer during this dark time needs to be “God continue to show me how valuable your Kingdom is!” Because when the church knows the value of what God has given them; that's when we as the church shine the brightest for His Kingdom.

Maybe you're here today and you don't know Jesus and you're looking for something valuable. His Kingdom is open to you now. You just have to receive it by faith. If that's you then pray this prayer with me!