

Kingdom Parables
The Unspeakable Value of the Kingdom
Matthew 13:44-56
Kevin Canterbury

1. Why Jesus Spoke in Parables

Parable: *Para* (beside); *Ballo* (to throw)

- One or two main Truths. Not meant to be complicated.
- Simple, Not Secret: Jesus used relatable, everyday stories to communicate a simple, focused truth.

Matthew 13:10–13 NET

Then the disciples came to him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He replied, “You have been given the opportunity to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but they have not. For whoever has will be given more, and will have an abundance. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. For this reason I speak to them in parables: Although they see they do not see, and although they hear they do not hear nor do they understand.

- The Sower and the Soil: A person's heart determines whether they hear and understand God's Word.
- A "Two-Part" Purpose: Parables hid truth from those with hard hearts and revealed it to those who were humble enough to listen.

Matthew 18:3 NET

... “I tell you the truth, unless you turn around and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven!

Matthew 13:44–46 NET

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, hidden in a field, that a person found and hid. Then because of joy he went and sold all that he had and bought that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he found a pearl of great value, he went out and sold everything he had and bought it.

2. The Kingdom's Unmatched Value

- Nothing Compares: The Kingdom contains salvation, forgiveness, peace, and eternal life—but above all, Christ himself. All other possessions are worthless in comparison.

Philippians 3:7–8 ESV

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Isaiah 9:7 ESV

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end...

Revelation 11:15 NET

...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

- Infinite Value: Christ's value is intrinsic; it doesn't change based on human opinion. His worth is infinite, and it never runs out.
- Eternal Reign: Unlike our possessions in this world, the Kingdom of God and the reign of King Jesus will last forever.

3. The Kingdom Comes with a Cost

- Choice, Not Purchase: You can't belong to the Kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God at the same time. You must choose.

Matthew 16:25–26 NET

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? Or what can a person give in exchange for his life?

- Losing Your Life to Find It: Jesus calls us to lay down our earthly lives and comforts to gain eternal life in the Kingdom.

Matthew 19:27–29 NET

Then Peter said to him, "Look, we have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth: In the age when all things are renewed, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And whoever has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

- A Joyful Exchange: The men in the parables willingly and joyfully sold everything they had. They didn't begrudgingly give up a little; they gave everything for an invaluable treasure.

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose

sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship.

4. The Kingdom's Value is Hidden

John 3:3 NET

Jesus replied, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- Hidden from Unbelievers: Only those who have been "born from above" can truly see the Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:11 NET

For who among men knows the things of a man except the man's spirit within him? So too, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- More Than Charity: The world sees the Church as a charitable institution, but our primary mission is to proclaim the Kingdom and make disciples.
- Only God Can Reveal It: We can't make people see the value of the Kingdom; only the Holy Spirit can do that work.