

The Priceless Value of the Kingdom

Throughout the spring, we've been talking about the preciousness of our adoption and how we are part of God's eternal plan that began before the beginning of the world. In May, we want to focus on this amazing inheritance we will receive. What did Jesus say about it? Matthew 13 is a great place to start. In this lesson, we'll focus on the two parables in v. 44-46 and see how one appropriates the kingdom.

I. The Parables

A. 13:44 - The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

1. *The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure**, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.*
2. Why bury treasure? Palestine was a place of war with the threat of looters and plunderers.
3. This man found something so valuable that he sold everything he had to get it.

B. 13:45-46 - The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

1. *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold **everything** he had and bought it.*
2. In Jesus' time, if you had pearls — you had a fortune.

II. The Principles

A. The kingdom is priceless in value.

1. It is so valuable that only a fool is unwilling to sell everything he has to gain it.
2. Peter says we will receive *an inheritance that is imperishable, **undefiled**, and unfading, kept in heaven for you* (1 Peter 1:4).

B. The kingdom has to be sought out

1. It is not obvious, out in the open, lying around on the surface
2. 1 Corinthians 2:14: *But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is **foolishness** to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.*
3. 2 Corinthians 4:4: *In their case, the god of this age has **blinded** the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - a) How does Satan blind people? Indifference, distractions, or a lack of care.
4. How strong is your pursuit? There has to be the desire to dig down and pursue.
 - a) John 1:10-11: *He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and his own people did not **receive** him.*
 - b) The warning here is that we can busy ourselves in the Scriptures and still miss the truth.

C. The kingdom is the source for our joy.

1. Matthew 13:44b: *Then in his **joy** he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.*
2. Joy is bound up in our treasure. Romans 14:17: *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, **peace**, and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

D. The kingdom may be entered into from different circumstances.

1. The man in the field was probably not looking for treasure.
2. The other man — went out knowing what he was looking for. Seeking something of genuine value.

III. As We Close...

A. The kingdom is made personal by a transaction. And it's not money, it's not works.

B. The transaction is that you give up all you have for all He has.

1. Matthew 16:24: *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him **deny** himself, take up his cross, and **follow me**.*
2. Salvation is an act whereby we exchange ourselves for Jesus as the ruler of our life.

C. We exchange ourselves, our sins, our will, and our control of our lives for Christ's leadership. Are you willing to give it all up for Christ?