

Title: *The Greatest Trade* **Scripture:** Matthew 13:44–46

Main Idea: The Kingdom of God is worth everything. Salvation in Jesus is free, but following Him will cost you your life—and it’s the best trade you’ll ever make.

Point 1: Following Jesus is financially free, but it will cost you everything.

Explanation:

The treasure and the pearl remind us that salvation cannot be bought—it’s already paid for by Jesus. Yet to truly receive it means laying down everything else: our plans, pride, and preferences.

Truth:

Grace is free, but discipleship is costly.

Challenge:

What has Jesus asked you to lay down—your plans, your security, your comfort—that you’re still clinging to?

Point 2: When you truly understand salvation, you’ll “sell what you have” with joy.

Explanation:

The man in the parable didn’t sell everything out of duty, but with joy. When we grasp the worth of Christ, surrender becomes celebration. We trade temporary things for eternal life and purpose.

Truth:

Joy comes not from what we give up, but from what we gain in Jesus.

Challenge:

Ask God to deepen your understanding of salvation so surrender becomes a joyful response, not a reluctant one.

Point 3: Others won’t always understand your choice.

Explanation:

Those around you may think you’re foolish for giving up comfort, status, or habits to follow Christ. But obedience always looks strange to the world.

Truth:

Faithfulness may confuse people, but it always honors God.

Challenge:

Don’t let misunderstanding shake your obedience. Following Jesus may cost you relationships or reputation—but it will never cost you His presence.

Reflection:

The world teaches us to hold tight to what we have, but Jesus invites us to trade it all for something infinitely greater—Himself. The Kingdom is worth the cost, and joy awaits those who go all in.

Devotion 1 – The Cost of Everything

Scripture: Matthew 16:24–25 “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.’”

Reflection: We live in a world that celebrates adding—adding comfort, adding convenience, adding security. Yet Jesus speaks about subtraction. He tells us that following Him will cost us our lives, not in a cruel way, but in a freeing one. The man who found treasure in the field didn’t mourn what he sold—he gladly gave it up because he knew what he was gaining. When we surrender our plans, expectations, or identities to Christ, we don’t lose; we trade up. The Kingdom is worth more than whatever we cling to.

Challenge: Ask God to reveal one area of your life you’ve been holding back—something you’ve refused to “sell.” Then pray for courage to lay it down, trusting that what Jesus offers is far greater than what you’ll lose.

Devotion 2 – Joy in the Trade

Scripture: Matthew 13:44 “When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Reflection: Joy is the great marker of genuine salvation. Not surface-level happiness that shifts with our circumstances, but deep joy that knows what we’ve gained in Christ outweighs all we’ve given up. The man in the parable didn’t sell everything out of guilt—he sold with joy. When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, surrender becomes a privilege, not a punishment. Every “no” to the old life is really a “yes” to something better.

Challenge: Spend a few minutes in gratitude today. List what you’ve gained in Christ—peace, forgiveness, new purpose, eternal hope. Let your joy rise from remembering what you’ve been given, not what you’ve left behind.

Devotion 3 – Misunderstood but Faithful

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:4 “They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.”

Reflection: Following Jesus faithfully will confuse people. Some may not understand why you’d give up certain habits, priorities, or comforts. But the life of discipleship has always stood apart from the culture around it. The early Christians were called strange because they loved their enemies, shared their possessions, and forgave the unforgivable. When you live differently, some will question you—but others will eventually see the light of Christ shining through your life.

Challenge: If you’ve been misunderstood or mocked for following Jesus, take heart. Pray for those who don’t yet see the value of the Kingdom, and ask God to give you strength to stay faithful even when the world doesn’t get it.