

Matthew 13:44-52

“The Kingdom Treasure”

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Jesus uses a series of three parables to help you understand: God’s great love for you, to warn unbelievers of God’s judgment, and to encourage us to understand, apply, and share what we learn.

Jesus is our King and the calling realm: when Jesus is your king in the calling realm you make disciples. You share what you’ve learned from Christ with others. Small group, and ministry at church are great places to get started.

Intro

Subject: Parables of the Hidden Treasure, Pearl of Great Price, and Dragnet

Object: Be disciples who make disciples

Context: Parables of sower, wheat + tares, mustard seed, leaven – Cf. true v. false

I. The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Price [44-46]

Theme: The King highly values His subjects

A. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure [44] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

1. The king highly values His Jewish subjects:

a. The field is the world, and the man is Jesus.

i. In a land often under attack treasure would be hidden. Here the treasure is discovered on the land and then covered, and the man goes and buys the field.

ii. This is not a picture of a sinner giving up all for Jesus. He paid price for us

2. Jesus gives all to purchase His people: goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

3. The treasure is the godly remnant of believing Jews before and after Church

a. Israel is God’s peculiar treasure:

i. Ps. 135:4 For the Lord has chosen ... Israel for His special treasure

ii. Ex. 19:5 You shall be a special treasure to Me above all people ...

b. God is not through with Jews, and will redeem believing Israel [Rom. 9-11]

B. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price [45-46] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1. The king highly values His Church subjects:

a. The merchant seeking beautiful pearls is Jesus [45]

2. Jesus gives all to purchase His people [46]: when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

3. The pearl of great price is the Church

a. **Believing Jews and Gentiles during the present age** (i.e. the Church)

b. In Jesus' day, Gentiles considered pearls to be the loveliest possession. Pearls were used by Gentile kings for crowns and thrones, and the Church is primarily Gentile (non-Jew)

** Largest pearl, weighing over 75#, and 2 foot length found by a fisherman in Philippines & revealed Aug.2016. Value estimated at > \$100 Million

C. God has given His Son to redeem you because you are greatly loved by Him

Lu. 19:10 The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost

Gen 3:15 Adam sells us out and Jesus buys us back [**Eph. 5:25**]

Have you ever had someone woo you? How did you feel?

Application: God's great love for you should motivate you to choose Christ

II. The Parable of the Dragnet [47-50]

Theme: The King warns of coming judgment for those who are not His

A. The fisherman's net is cast and draws all kinds [47] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

1. **Dragnet [47]** is drawn between 2 boats, or tied to shore & brought out to sea by a boat and then drawn to land by ropes; it was a typical way of fishing at the Galilee.

2. **The kingdom** during Church age many are drawn to God but may not be saved

3. **Some of every kind:** kosher/clean and unclean

B. The good fish are ultimately separated from the bad [48-50] which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

1. **The bad fish are those who are not saved, and experience judgment [49-50]**

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

a. **End of the age:** the last judgment at end of the Great Tribulation before the Millennial kingdom is ushered in

2. The good fish are truly saved they experience God's eternal presence gathered the good into vessels [48]

a. The King knows those who are His and those who aren't

Application: loving warning of God's judgment should motivate us to choose Christ

III. The King's subjects understand, apply, and share what they learn [51-52]

⁵¹ Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." ⁵² Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the

kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.”

A. Confirm understanding of Jesus’ teaching [51] Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, “Yes, Lord: to grasp or comprehend.

1. Confirm understanding of 7 Kingdom Parables and Jesus’ teaching generally

a. This time the disciples understood, but sometimes they don’t

2. The disciples understood, do we?

a. Summary:

i. The parables of the sower, wheat and tares, mustard seed and leaven contrast true from false (believers, growth, and doctrine). **The moral:** *Commit to Christ and be a true believer, experience real growth, nourished by sound doctrine.*

ii. The parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price encourage us how highly valued we are to God. **The moral:** *God’s love motivates us to choose Christ*

iii. The parable of the dragnet reminds that those who are not truly saved will experience God’s judgment. **The moral:** *warning of God’s judgment motivates people to choose Christ*

B. Challenge to apply and communicate to others [52] Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old:

1. Jesus’ disciples keep learning from Him: Scribes were those who learned the Scriptures and were able to communicate the truth to others

a. Continue to learn from Jesus and apply the lessons learned

2. Jesus’ disciples share what they have learned in the past and present brings out of his treasure *things* new and old: We are stewards of the treasure of God’s revelation:

a. New Testament revelation and Old Testament

b. Prior and present understanding of the Word and experience with Jesus

c. Christ will use your experiences prior to salvation as well as after

* Small group, working with kids and youth are great places to get started.

What advice would you give about making disciples?

App: Those who make disciples know they are the King’s subjects [**Mt. 28:18-20**]

Conc: Respond to God’s love, and be disciples who make disciples. And you will know that you are a subject of the King.