

Title: Christ, the Eternal Treasure

Scripture: Matthew 13:44-46

Series: Bilingual

1. Introduction –

- a. The subject of our study today are these two parables which our Lord used in order to give spiritual insight about the importance of the Kingdom of heaven.
 - i. What is the Kingdom –
 1. It is the domain in which God’s lordship is even now fully operative. In other words, all who truly belong to the kingdom of heaven have formally yielded to Christ’s lordship. To enter the kingdom, therefore, is to enter into eternal life.
- b. With these two parables our Lord says something about those who show a superficial interest in following Him. According to the parables, discipleship is not a lifestyle to be embarked on heedlessly. Rather, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is the highest and most beautiful honor that any person can have.
 - i. The worth of discipleship is incomparable to anything that this world can ever offer.
 - ii. This is why we are commanded in **Matthew 6:33** ...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,...
- c. Entrance to the Kingdom is Free –

- i. The Kingdom of heaven is worth more than any mere mortal could ever imagine—which means it is infinitely beyond the price range that any of us could ever afford.
 - 1. The cost, in human terms, for admittance into the Kingdom of heaven demands perfection. Jesus summed it up in a single statement—**Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
 - ii. It is the height of arrogance to imagine that any fallen sinner could sufficiently satisfy God’s perfect standard of righteousness or somehow win God’s favor by attempting to cover our sinfulness with imperfect works.
 - iii. Therefore, Jesus—the perfect, spotless, sinless Lamb of God—made the only possible atonement for sinners. Christ paid the kingdom’s entry fee in full for those who believe in His name—He is the only one who could ever pay such an unimaginably high price.
 - iv. Though the Lord Jesus paid the price in full, it is not inconsistent to urge people to count the cost of entering the kingdom. That is, in fact, the very point Jesus is making in these two brief parables.
- d. Point of clarification: Treasure in the Field –

- i. The treasure in the field did not belong to the landowner. (If it had been his, he would have dug it up before selling his field to someone else. The fact that he didn't know it was there meant he had no prior right to it.) Therefore, by Jewish law, it belonged to the finder.

Six Vital truths for Our Consideration

2. Number 1: The Kingdom is priceless in value: In Christ and His kingdom, we have an eternal treasure that is rich beyond comparison. The best words to describe this treasure are found in **1 Peter 1:4** ...an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.
 - a. Both Parables then teach us the same truth. Nothing this world offers is worth more or is more important than the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ and being part of His Kingdom.
 - i. Consider the enormity of what the bible is saying. Christ is worth more than all the riches, knowledge, pleasures, and power found on earth.
 1. In other words, men sell themselves cheaply when they reject Christ in order to pursue worldly gain. They sell their souls, their incredible souls, for what amounts to counterfeit.

- a. **Matthew 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 - b. These parables teach that only an absolute fool would be unwilling to relinquish the rust that he now owns and bypass the treasures of eternal life.
3. Number 2: The Kingdom is not superficially visible: The treasure was hidden, and the Pearl had to be found. They were not apparent to the casual observer.
- a. Sinners are not naturally inclined to seek God. Scripture says, “There is none who seeks after God.”
 - i. What we know from Scripture is that those that do seek only do so because God graciously draws them to Christ. God enables them to see and understand the spiritual realm.
 - ii. In other words, if the riches of eternal life become apparent, it is because God the Holy Spirit has manifested the beauty of the treasure to an otherwise ignorant sinner.

iii. If it weren't for God, each of us would have walked by the treasure and never would have found it. Remember, in our parables neither the hired servant nor the seeker of pearls could have ever imagined finding such treasures treasure.

4. Number 3: The Kingdom is personally appropriated: The key figure in both parables is an individual. Each finds something of great value and then proceeds to appropriate it.

- a. Lots of people think that because they were baptized, attend church, or even formally join the membership of a church, that they are guaranteed an entrance to Christ's kingdom. NOT SO! You are not yet a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven until you have personally been brought into union with Christ by the Spirit of God, thereby appropriating the treasure, Jesus Christ, for yourself.
 - i. It is not merely enough to be religious. Everyone we know, even the atheist, is religious. Christ, who is the treasure, must be made yours!
 - ii. The men in our parables took every measured step to make the treasure their own. It was not enough to know about the treasure, believe that their was a treasure, or rejoice for having seen the treasure. Each man sold everything they had and did so joyfully. They liquidated all their assets and proceeded forward until the treasure was their own property.

- iii. Beloved, this is the way of salvation. You must be willing to appropriate Christ for yourself, no matter the cost. Failure to do so bars the individual from full admittance into the eternal realm.
- iv. I ask you, what good is it knowing about a hidden treasure but never taking possession of it?
 - 1. You will never be enriched until you take possession of the treasure!

5. Number 4: The Kingdom is the True Source of Real Joy: God's Word says that it was "...in his joy..." that the man went and sold everything he had to buy the field with the buried treasure.

- a. Beloved, coming to Christ is a joyous affair. It is the passing from death unto life. It is, for the first time, the ability to see things for what they truly are.
 - i. Of those that have understood this truth we read the following in **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- b. Each of the men in the parable were joyful to surrender all in order to obtain Christ. Others around them were dumbfounded and even critical. They could not understand the voluntary disposing of worldly goods to obtain the eternal.

6. Number 5: Not everyone comes to the Kingdom in the same way:

- a. In the first parable, the man stumbles across the treasure – He was not looking for it, nor could he hope the field had a treasure.
 - i. The Apostle Paul, and the Samaritan Woman are examples of such people
 - ii. Perhaps this is you, today. You came here today not even thinking about finding treasure but here it is. God the Holy Spirit has led you to it and opened your eyes to see it. What should you do? Simply, sell everything you have and appropriate this treasure unto yourself.
- b. In the second parable, the man is seeking pearls. He knows exactly what he is looking for and yet he cannot fathom that which he is about to find.
 - i. Cornelius, and the Ethiopian Eunuch are examples of such people.
 - ii. Perhaps this is you today. You came here today seeking answers and seeking something of great worth. You have found more than you could have ever expected. Appropriate the treasure of the pearl for yourself. You have found it. Make it yours today!
- c. In both cases, God sovereignly ordains the discovery of Christ by any individual.

7. Number 6: Saving faith has a high cost:

- a. Notice that in both cases, the prize is purchased. Jesus was not teaching that eternal life can be bought with money or merited by human works. Only Jesus paid our salvation price.
- b. Even though eternal life can be freely received by faith, we must note that such faith is not just simple knowledge or nominal assent to certain facts.
- c. True faith lets go of anything else that we might seek for salvation. It is total surrender to the person and work of the Savior.
- d. Saving faith is an exchange of all that we are for all that Christ is. It yields unconditionally to Christ both as Lord and Savior.
 - i. **Matthew 16:24-25** Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
(25) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

8. Benediction

- a. **Psalms 104:1** Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

Public Reading of Scripture
Psalm 104:1-6