

## The Parables of the Kingdom

### Matthew 13:44-46 What God Values

**Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 13 – we are continuing our Look at the Parables – M 13**

A) Parables of the Kingdom – *The Kingdom is like!*

B) Title today: **What God Values!** Pray

**What makes something Valuable!**

A) On the screen you see a Baseball card – 1914 Babe Ruth rookie card – package of cards – 1 penny + gum

B) **That card alone recently sold for \$270,000**

1) Who's image is on it

C) Elvis Presley's White Knabe Piano (Graceland Piano) bought for 30K/ today worth 3 Million

1) All because Who it belonged to

D) Today we are going to look at two Short Parables that teach us what God Values and why

**Set Scene: Jesus growing in Pop – Large Multitudes**

A) Matthew 12 shift in the reaction: The religious leaders of Jerusalem have officially rejected Jesus

B) He talks about the Blasphemy of the HS – Jesus talks to them about being an adulterous Generation

1) Rejected their own Messiah

**At this point in His ministry Jesus starts to talk to the people in Parables**

A) Earthly stories with a heavenly meaning

**Conceal, hearts growing dull / Reveal hearts ...hungry**

B) Theme of the Parables: **The Kingdom of Heaven**

C) The Kingdom of heaven is where God reigns.

1) Two opposing forces in the world today

D) Kingdom of Light vs the Kingdom of Darkness

## **Satan reigns over the kingdom of Darkness**

A) God reigns over the Kingdom of light

B) The two Kingdoms are mutually exclusive

1) They are in Constant conflict w/ one another

C) The Conflict centers around – **the heart of man and the mind of man**

## **God made man – placed in a Beautiful garden**

A) Enjoy – fellowship – One restriction – tree of ...

B) God wanted man to have a Choice – to follow Him or not – Satan deceived – man rebelled –

C) Sin entered the world – Sin separated – **the Kingdom of darkness was born**

1) Those who choose to live for themselves – live for pleasure, are a part of it!

## **God's rescue Mission – Send His Son into the world to redeem it and man living in it –**

A) Pay the Price for man's sins

B) The coming of Jesus into the world – Established the Kingdom of God or heaven – among men

C) So the Kingdom of heaven is where God rules and reigns

1) If God rules and reigns in your heart today – then you are in the Kingdom of heaven

D) If God does not rule in your life today – then you are in the kingdom of darkness

E) Either one or the other { **No neutral ground**

## **That is what these Parables have been teaching us**

A) The First four take place by the sea of Galilee – Jesus is speaking to a mixed multitude –

B) **Some are believers – true followers – most are not**

1) He is illustrating how – He came to establish His kingdom among men – Spread the word

C) Plant true believers in the world –

1) But all the while Satan would be seeking to undermine – that work – counterfeits & sin

D) That has been our focus so far

**In v.44 the scene has shifted – Jesus is now in a house with the 12 – He shares 3 short Parables with them**

**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.**

**Parable #5 ONE VERSE**

**45 "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.**

**PARABLE #6 TWO VERSES**

**PARABLE #7 next 4 VERSES {next week**

**Start today Parable of the Hidden treasure**

The **common interpretation** of this parable is that **the sinner finds Christ** and **gives up** all that he possesses to gain Him and be saved.

But this interpretation has several problems.

**1.) Jesus Christ is not a hidden treasure.**

He is perhaps the best-known Person of history.

**2.) In the second place, the sinner cannot “find Christ” for he is blind.**

He is LOST and needs to be FOUND (Luke 19:10).

**3.) And no sinner could ever purchase salvation!**

And if the lost sinner could purchase the world to gain Christ? Would he hide Him again? Doesn't make sense!

**KEY OBSERVATION:** Please note that the man in the parable **did not** purchase the treasure; he purchased the whole field.

**So what is this describing?**

Notice that there are two things in this story which are immediately recognizable because we have had them before.

**There is a man, and there is a field.**

**B) So we already have clues as to what these mean.**

1) The man in these parables is always Jesus himself.

He has previously identified himself as the central figure in the first 2 Parables – He is the man

**C) And the field, he has told us, is the world, including the world of humanity.**

**D) So if Jesus is the man and the world is the field – what then is the treasure?**

**Well, the best way to interpret Scripture is with Scripture!**

**A) Exodus 19 God refers to the nation of Israel as His own special treasure!**

**Deuteronomy 7:6-7 & 14:2**

**“The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”**

**Psalms 135:4 “ For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.”**

**B) KJV uses the word – Peculiar – I like that because they are a peculiar treasure.**

**C) A small insignificant group of people – Chosen by God / placed in a land – that is not all that pretty**

**1) They would become a great nation – Greatest under David and Solomon – Preview of things to come**

**D) Most powerful in the world - BUT SIN BROUGHT DECLINE - / CAPTIVITY**

**1) Kings and Chronicles**

**Cc) Doesn't matter what the United Nations says about Israel –**

**1) What other world leaders say – God has chosen Israel to be His treasure.**

**D) God had Chosen Israel to be a light to the nations – a demonstration of His love and Grace**

**1) From the time of Abe – until the time of Solomon – God sought to have Israel shine**

**E) But because of their rebellion against God Israel became hidden – a shadow of what God intended**

**At the time that Jesus arrived on the scene the**

**treasure was hidden – they were once again living in oppression to the Romans –**

**A) For 400yrs no prophetic voice – silent yrs**

**B))Yet this is the place where God would send His Son – this is the place –where God**

would make Himself known

C) This is the place where God would – reveal in the greatest degree – **the Magnitude of His love**

1) Send His Son to die on a Cross to bring Salvation to the world

**When Jesus arrives on the scene – He uncovers the treasure during His 3 yrs of ministry.**

A) For the first time in 400yrs God is moving in a powerful way in Israel thru His Son

B) Lives are being transformed and changed –

1) People are taking notice – The treasure is being uncovered

C) That is the story of the gospels. He revealed for a brief flash of time the glory that was Israel.

**He declared it in great messages like the *Sermon on the Mount*.**

A) And then he demonstrated it by healing the multitudes,

by driving the moneychangers out of the temple,

by feeding the thousands with bread and fish,

by rebuking death & evil everywhere He went.

B) In the short course of the three and a half years of our Lord's ministry he uncovered the treasure of Israel, the secret of this nation's life.

C) God's hand was upon them – and from them would come the Messiah the Savior of the world

**But The nation would not have Him, and they rejected Him.**

A) So according to the parable he hid the treasure again.

B) You see in the Gospel stories that there came a time in our Lord's ministry when He began to change His focus and direction – His area of ministry.

C) As opposition began to mount against Him and resistance to His message increased, our Lord withdrew from Jerusalem and went out into the desert.

D) He refused to go into the capital city again until His appointed hour had come.

**And the crowds who had followed Him, the multitudes who had hung upon His words faded**

**away.**

John 6:66 "Many turned back, and no longer walked with Him"

Eventually He came again into the city and there He pronounced solemn and serious words of judgement against the nation.

In Matthew 23 He pronounced sharp series of woes against the Pharisees and the scribes.

And He would weep over a city that had lost it's opportunity to receive it's Messiah.

**So the treasure was hidden again**

A) But then the parable describes how the man in his joy went and gave all that he had and bought the field."

B) And in those words, "he gave all that he had," the mystery of the cross of Jesus Christ is implied.

1) It reminds us of what Paul declared of Jesus in Philippians 2:8 "Though he was equal with God he did not count it a thing to be held on to but he emptied himself, (disenfranchised himself, pauperized himself -- he gave all that he had) -- and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. "

**There was a reason for this – Israel's moment of glory would have to wait – Jesus was doing a new thing – Focus of the next Parable! Pearl of .....**

**45 "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.**

**It is interesting to note that there is no record of pearls in Hebrew culture.**

A) They didn't esteem pearls – they esteemed gems

B) Gems are vastly different than pearls – A gem is formed over 1,000's of yrs thru great pressure

C) A gem finds it's value as it is Cut!

**The opposite is true of a Pearl – if a pearl gets cut it is ruined- it's value is destroyed**

A) The pearl is only valuable in it's wholeness – it's unity.

B) It takes 3-5 yrs for a pearl to be formed from the inside of the Oyster.

C) The Pearl is formed inside of a living creature- it is the by product of a living creature that has been wounded by something – out of the wound comes a thing of beauty!

**D)A Pearl begins as nothing more than an irritating grain of sand** stuck in the shell of an Oyster.

**1)The Oyster continually surrounds** that grain of sand with a crystalline substance called *Nacre* which hardens over the years.

**That which caused pain – becomes a thing of Beauty!**

**A)A Pearl - a great picture of the Believer (individually) and Church (corporately)**

**B)It begins as nothing more than an irritating grain of sand** stuck in the shell of an Oyster.

**C)In and of itself.... Alone.... the grain of Sand is  
Useless.... Worthless.... An Irritant**

**D)A PERFECT picture of YOU and ME outside of Christ!**

**And just like The Oyster continually surrounds that grain of sand with a crystalline substance that creates it's beauty.**

**A)So too - the BLOOD OF JESUS continually covers us**

**B)He is continuously *secreting* His Love over you/me individually.... His Church corporately!**

**C)It is the power of His cleansing blood that causes the us.... His Church to be transformed**

**1)Giving us a Beautiful White Luster until the Dirty Grain is no longer recognizable!**

**Our Lord came to this world and, seeing the church as God sees it, with his view of history -- already complete and worth so very much, he gave all that he had so that he might obtain it.**

**I think that Paul might've had this very parable in mind when he wrote to the Ephesians: "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ... that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." {Ephesians 5:25b, 5:27 RSV}**

**So JESUS - The Merchant**

**A) Found you/me!**

**B) Gave His All for you/me!**

**C) Bought you/me w/ an incredible price!**

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

**“Knowing you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**

**Like the pearl the Churches Beauty is seen in it's unity! Ephesian 4:4**

***There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;***

**Like a pearl, the church is the product of suffering.**

**Christ died for the church and His suffering on the cross made possible her birth. (Ephesians 5:25)**

**And Like a pearl grows gradually**

**A)The believer grows gradually as the Spirit convicts and converts sinners.**

**B)And the Blood of Jesus transforms**

**C)Now at this point – someone might ask – Doesn't the Bible declare that we were unworthy of salvation (Yes)**

**1)That we were enemies of God – (yes)**

**C)Jesus loved us and died for us anyway (yes)**

**But don't confuse worthiness with Value**

**A)Worthiness is something that is achieved – none of us was worthy –**

**B)It is only when Christ Worthiness is applied to us that we become worthy**

**C)But God Values Souls – Created for Fellowship**

**1)He sees the lost soul and sees what it can be when it yields to Him – there is Value in that.**

**D)In fact we will see tonight where – God declares that we are more valuable to Him than Sparrows**

**So in these two short Parables we have God's design for the ages – Israel His hidden treasure**

**A)The Church – a Pearl of great Price**



**B) Jesus came and gave all to Purchase both**

**Israel was hidden for 2,000 yrs – dispersed – no longer a nation – wiped out –**

**A) Then a miracle happened – Rebirth in 1948 –**

**Treasure was partially unveiled –**

**B) The day is coming when Jesus is going to return**

**1) The Jewish nation is going to see Him and recognize Him as the Messiah they crucified**

**C) They will repent and be saved –**

**Right now the focus is on the Church –**

**A) His Pearl – Shine brightly in the world – win Jews and Gentiles to Christ to point the way**

**B) Here today – and don't Know Christ – Jesus came and died – that He might redeem you**

**1) Be a part of His Kingdom – Know Purpose .....**

**C) Open your heart to Him**

**Maybe you are here today – like Israel you have turned your back on Him – rejected Him**

**A) Open your heart today – while there is still time**

**B) Enjoy sweet fellowship with Him**

**C) Which Kingdom do you belong to? Is God reigning ? –**

**Pray**