

## Matthew 13:44-53

### What God Values

#### (The King and His Kingdom)

Been said that a picture is worth a 1,000 words – Jesus has been painting pictures – called Parables

A) Parables : Take something in **the natural to illustrate something in the spiritual.**

B) C. H. Spurgeon – A Sermon without illustrations is like a house without windows.

1) Jesus was a Master at using illustrations

C) Today we are looking at the final **3 parables here in Matthew 13**

1) The theme of the first two is what God Values

D) Note we saw last week – Jesus has moved from the fields with the multitude & into a house w/ Disciples

1) A little more personal – more pointed – instruction for his disciples

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.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Here we have two parables that teach the same basic truths.

A) Both deal with the Value of something and what one goes through in order to acquire it

**and the Joy they receive when they do.**

B) The things of Value in these two parables are a treasure and a pearl of great Price.

C) Questions that come up are **who is the man**, who is **the merchant**?

1) What is the treasure and what are the pearls

The Common interpretation of these two parables is that

A) Jesus Christ is the pearl of great price and He is the treasure. The sinner is the one who seeks.

B) And when he finds Jesus Christ and knows that he's the truth,

1) It's worth giving up everything that he might purchase his salvation.

C) That is **a very popular interpretation** of these two parables.

1) Many Pastors today who would teach it that way.

D) But I have some serious problems with that interpretation- **And I am not alone**

1) Many Scholars and commentators do as well – and here is why.

**#1 Jesus is not hidden. He's probably the best known figure in all of human history.**

A) Look up his name in any encyclopedia or simply google it based on hits on the internet,

**B) He is the most popular person who ever existed.**

He is not hidden.

**#2 The sinner does not seek God.**

A) I know it might feel that way from a human standpoint but the Bible says **there are none who seek God and there is none who are righteous, no not one.**

B) The Bible says that we are like sheep and have gone astray.

1) Jesus is the shepherd who went seeking after us.

C) So the **picture of the sinner seeking Jesus** - that doesn't fit with what the Bible really teaches

**#3 Salvation can't be purchased!**

A) Salvation is the free gift of God – Saved by grace through faith not of works lest anyone should boast.

B) You believe in the gospel – embrace by faith – Can't be bought or earned

**So what then are these Parables talking about?**

A) **Expositional constancy**: is a term used to convey to us that the use of symbolism and idioms in Scripture is consistent.

B) V.36-43 Jesus explained the Parable of the Tares and the wheat.

**C) He revealed to us that the V.38 that the Field is the world –**

1)and in V.37 that the Sower is the Son of man – Jesus !

D)So that gives us some key insight into these parables

1)The field is the world – Jesus is the man who comes into the World – so what then is the treasure ?

E)The treasure is you and I

**See this is a picture of the gospel:**

A)Jesus Christ who left everything and came down from heaven and gave everything –

B)To purchase the world so He could get the treasure.

C)**Opposite of religion:** Religion paints a picture of what man needs to do to get to God.

1)The Bible paints a picture of what God did to reach man –

D)Jesus left heaven and came to this World – to Redeem it – to purchase it

**Jesus didn't need another world –**

A)He had all he needed – but there was a treasure in the WORLD– that he loved and wanted – **MANKIND**

**B)SEE The Bible teaches us that – when Man sinned in the garden: Adam and Eve rebelled –**

1)The world was lost – Put into the hands of the Devil – The God of this world!

C)Jesus came to Redeem it – Redeem means to buy it back –

1)not because He wanted the planet per se – **BUT MAN IN IT!**

**Similar story in the OT in the book of Ruth –**

A)Rich guy named Boaz who has plenty of fields – doesn't need another field

B)But he falls in love with this treasure – her name is Ruth –

1)but in order to get the right to marry Ruth he has to purchase this field

C)**Sort of a package deal** – He gladly purchases the field so he can get the bride

1)That is what Jesus did in order to get you and I

D)That is what these two parables in their simplest forms illustrate for us.

**Now there are Some scholars who see the treasure as being the nation of Israel**

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

Deuteronomy 7:6-7

**“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.”**

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

B)KJV uses the word – **Peculiar** for special in Psalm 135:4

1) I like that because ISRAEL IS 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)Illustrated in the books of 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles

**And at the time that Jesus came on the scene in the NT – ISRAEL the treasure was hidden in the world.**

A)See Israel had been beaten down, living under Roman oppression –

**B)A FAINT shadow of it's former glory**

C)Jesus comes to this earth in order to buy the world – redeem the world –

1)so that he might get the treasure.

D)THAT IS His heart for the nation of Israel

1)Even though Most of the nation rejected him – **oh Jerusalem..... you were not willing.**

**Israel will always be special to God – Chosen people – even now – many who live there dwell in darkness**

A)They don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah

B) One day he is going to return – Come in His glory – The people of Israel will see Him –  
1) Notice his wounds – where did you get those wounds – he will answer in the house of my friends

C) Israel is going to realize – **THAT WAS YOU** – we crucified the Messiah  
1) Jesus will say – Yes but these are wounds of love – I did that to purchase you as my treasure

**So then if the treasure is Israel – what does the Pearl represent?**

A) Most scholars believe the Pearl represents the church

B) **The symbolism is interesting:** Pearls are vastly different than gems –

C) A gem is formed over 1,000's of yrs thru great pressure

D) A gem finds its value in its Cut!

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

A) The pearl is only valuable in its wholeness – its unity.

B) The Pearl is formed inside of a living creature-

C) it is the by product **of a living creature that has been wounded by something**

1) out of the wound comes a thing of beauty!

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

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

B) **Which is how the Pearl is formed!**

C) So that which caused the pain – becomes a thing of BEAUTY!!!!

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

A) We were the irritant – Sinners living in Rebellion against God

**B) Jesus was wounded by sinners – but out of His wound would come this thing of beauty.**

1) Like the Nacre covers the irritating grain of sand – the Blood of Jesus Christ – covers us –

**Jesus was wounded – his blood was shed to cover our sin –**

A) From his wound – something beautiful comes forth

B) It is **the power of His cleansing blood** that causes Sinners to be transformed

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

C) We are turned into His Bride: His pearl of great Price!

**But wait you say- the parable says that the merchant saw a pearl of great price – then he sold everything to buy it**

A) We were not some beautiful Pearl when Jesus saw us in our sin.

B) This is true but Jesus always sees the finished product

1) Hebrews 12:2 – **Who for the Joy that was set before Him** – he endured the cross despising the shame.

C) Part of That Joy was You and I Saved – redeemed – transformed

1) **Jesus always sees the finished product**

**So whether you interpret this as two parables illustrating the same thing –**

A) Or as the treasure being Israel – Pearl/ the church

B) The message is clear: **YOU ARE VALUABLE TO JESUS**

C) **HE LOVED you enough to give EVERYTHING**

– 1) **TO REDEEM YOU – SAVE YOU** - Make you His treasure.

D) You might not be valuable to anyone else – but you are radically valuable to Him.

E) We need to remember that about OURSELVES

**And we need to remember that about one another!**

A) You are sitting next to someone that is incredibly Valuable to Jesus/ **someone Jesus loves INTENSELY**

B) Single people: Motivator for staying pure in your dating relationships

1) You are dating God's Daughter - / God's son

C) His purchase possession { **DON'T MESS WITH THAT!!!!!!**

**Married:** Listen before that woman became your wife – before that dude became your husband

A) **They were God's kids** – His son – His daughter – His treasure – His pearl

B) A person that Jesus loved enough HE sacrificed everything to purchase as His own.

C) **How do we treat treasures?** – Things of Value – Carefully – respectfully

1) Carry in a special case – keep them in safe place – special place

**Your spouse is someone that Jesus paid the ultimate price for – you need to treat them like that.**

A) Do it out of your Love for Jesus – your respect for Jesus – **Reverence for Jesus**

B) Healthy fear – You are going to answer one day for what and WHO He has entrusted into your hands

1) **THAT IS HEAVY!!!** –

**C) But it is not just in our dating relationships or in our marriage relationships**

1) We need to see our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ as His treasure –

D) People He loved **enough to sacrifice everything for- Shed his blood for!**

**Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:16 – Talking about how we are new creature in Christ**

A) Says **I don't want to know anyone after the flesh** –

B) Don't want to focus on their flaws – we all have them friends – **still sinners – not perfect**

C) Paul Says I don't want to know anyone after the flesh –

1) See them as being in Christ or out of Christ – Saved or lost

**D) If they are saved – I don't want to focus on their flesh – their flaws their shortcomings**

1) I want to see them in Christ – His treasure –

E) Focus on the good – focus on the positive – their potential –

1) what I see in them that reminds me of JESUS!!!

**It is That IDEA that I believe is the purpose of this final Parable here in Matthew 13**

A) It is another parable that deals with Mixture.

B) It is similar to the one we looked at last week – Wheat and the Tares

C) The analogy this time is Fishing – which many of the Disciples were really familiar with

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, <sup>48</sup> which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, <sup>50</sup> and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

**The dragnet was a popular way of fishing in that culture It took a team.**

A) You had usually two boats and a net that would hang down in the water, **WITH weights at the bottom, AND floats on the top**

B) **So it was like a moving wall.**

1) And the boats would encircle an area and drag it to the shore.

C) Now that would CAPTURE everything. Good fish, bad fish, debris, garbage, everything!

D) So, then you have to pick out the garbage and bad stuff and throw it away.

1) You have to throw the bad fish away and you keep the good fish, put them in baskets, take them to market.

**Application I think is pretty simple – the church is filled with a mixture of people.**

A) Venture to say there are at least 4 types of people sitting here in this room today.

**B) There are those who are saved – and On Fire for Jesus –**

1) Love him with all your heart – love to study his word.

C) Then there are those who are saved – but struggling in their walks

1) Struggling with sin – or doubt or discouragement

**There are also those who the Bible would deem as being Carnal**

A) Living for the Flesh – still caught up in the things of the flesh – Wasn't LOOKING AT ANYONE.....

B) **Saved – Struggling – Carnal** - Then there are those who are not saved –

1) Here because of obligation – wife or parents or a friend

C) Others not saved here **out of curiosity** – what is this all about

**When I preach I have all four groups in mind.**

A) Those saved and on fire – I want to stir up – More on fire

B) Those struggling – I want to encourage – who they are in Christ

1) The Carnal I want to warn – quit playing around with sin

**C) And for those who are Not saved – I want to invite – see Jesus**

1) Sunday messages God has me prepare with all four groups in mind

**I think this is what Jesus is illustrating – the church is full of a mixture of people:**

A) Who are in all different places in relationship to Him.

B) But the parable also illustrates that the Lord is the one who is going to determine those who are really his

C) In other words it is not our Job to determine who is really saved or not – who is really walking with Jesus or not

D) **There is a time coming** – Jesus calls it the end of the age where all are going to stand before Him- Answer to him

E) Some are going to be cast out - ,<sup>50</sup> and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

1) **2<sup>nd</sup> TIME MENTIONED** - Not a pretty picture.

2) **THERE IS A JUDGMENT COMING!** -

**I personally think we are going to be surprised in heaven by who is there and who is not there.**

A) Surprised by who is there: - He made it – WOW!!!

**B) Think about some of the OT characters – who are some of the least you would expect to see in heaven**

C) Lot comes to my mind: Abraham's Nephew – he is very worldly

1) Moves his family to Sodom – wicked City – makes Vegas seem Pure

D) Sodom is so wicked – God decided to Destroy the city and everyone in it

E) We bought Pastor Brian's old house: **Playhouse that was build by Pastor Chuck –**

1) Infested with Termites - Had to tear it down.  
What? – Ready to kick us out of Calvary

**Sodom couldn't be saved: So bad there wasn't even 10 godly people in the whole city**

A) God - Tells Lot to get out – get his family – His impact is so weak that the only people in his family who go with him are his two daughters

B) **After the city is destroyed** – they are like – now that our city has been destroyed we are never going to get married.

1) Like there are not other cities

C) So they come up with this bright idea: **Let's get dad drunk –**

1) and get him to have sex with both of us – so we get pregnant – have kids

**That is exactly what happens – they both give birth to sons**

A) who grow up to become two nations that cause Israel a lot of problems

B) Will we see Lot in Heaven? – Peter in 2 Peter 2:7 refers to Lot **as righteous Lot** – really? –

1) That is how God saw him

C) Inkling of faith in there somewhere

**Or take Samson- So many gifts – such anointing but no accountability**

A) He squandered all that had been given to him by God - because he lived to please his flesh.

B) Crazy thing: **Samson ends up in Hebrews 11 the Hall of faith.**

C) Now I don't mention these guys to give anyone a license to sin – but only to magnify the grace of God

1) Two illustrations of a **SAVED SOUL BUT A WASTED LIFE!**

D) But also illustrates that THE LORD knows those who are his.

E) SO I believe that there are going to be some people in heaven that we are going to be surprised that they are there.

**Others that we are going to be surprised that they are not there!**

A) Matthew 25 parable of the sheep and the goats- this group who it describes did all these crazy things for God including casting out Demons ...name

B) Jesus is going to Cast out of his presence – he says: Depart from me – I never knew you.

1) Point – Do you know Him? **Ginosko – know in relationship**

C) That is my point: Only Jesus knows for sure – those that are truly his and He is the one who is going to reveal that one day!

**D) There will be those who are cast out – Because they didn't really Know Him!! –**

1) Didn't really have a relationship with Him

E) That is what is being illustrated by the parable of the Dragnet!

After the Parables V.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.”

53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

**Jesus is saying, “If you understand these things, you're like a scribe who owns a house in which he has new innovations alongside old antiques.”**

A) The Disciples like most Jewish young men were well trained in the OT scriptures –

B) they understood – the basics of the Old Covenant.

C) But Jesus was entrusting them with the wonderful truths of the New Covenant that He came to establish.

**D) They would come to understand how the OC and the NC – stood side by side.**

1) The OC – the law's purpose was to point out our need for a Savior

E) The NC was to show us that OUR SAVIOR was none other than Jesus Christ.

**This is the message that they would be entrusted with**

A) Paul put it this way in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

**4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

B) That is our MISSION as well! –

**Message of life –**

A) People can avoid the judgment that is to come

B) As we close today -

**Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11**

**C) Bow now – because if you chose to bow later it will be too late.**