

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM - VI Parable of the Treasure and the Field

Text: Matthew 13:44

Key Word: Treasure

Key Thought: We are Seen as a Valuable Treasure to God

The parables which I preached about thus far in this chapter were addressed to the crowds that followed Jesus (Matthew 13:34). The people listened intently to what He had to say. Some understood the deeper meaning of His parables while others could not.

There came a time when Jesus met with His disciples behind closed doors to explain some of the parables as well as to share a few more. **These next parables were given to those who had ears to hear and eyes to see. Having spoken to "men of sight" He now turns to address "men of faith."** The multitudes would not be able to receive this message. **People who move by what they see can only be taught the outward aspects of the Kingdom of God while people of faith come close to their Saviour to receive the messages from the heart of God.**

These next four parables "constitute the secrets of God, but they are revealed to men of faith, knowing which and understanding which, they will be strengthened and heartened and equipped for all good service."

G. Campbell Morgan
"Parables & Metaphors of our Lord"
p. 67

If we only had the previous parables to consider what the Kingdom of Heaven was like we may become depressed because of all the problems they speak of. We may have been left to think, "*Will God's Kingdom end in defeat? Will our enemy triumph over us? Are we working toward an impossible future?*" We must always remember that **the story of the resurrection** must always be linked with **the story of the crucifixion. God births life out of death!**

The Psalmist tells how he overcame the depressive thoughts that were plaguing him,

*"When I tried to understand all this it was
oppressive (too painful - KJV) to me
17. till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I
understood their final destiny."*

Psalm 73:16,17

We will not discern the secrets of God by sight. We must enter the inner circle of a personal relationship with Him. It is there that He will reveal an optimism as we understand the mysterious workings of God in an often "devil-driven and discouraging age." God's truth must be slowly "chewed upon" like the cud of a cow.

"God's mills may appear to grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly sure."

Herbert Lockyer
"All the Parables of the Bible"
p. 198

We must all learn to trust God even though certain things do not make sense to us.

"Ours is not to question why, ours is simply to do and die."

This is another parable without an clear explanation so therefore it is open to misinterpretation.

Some have tried to suggest that this parable teaches that once we discover the value of God's Kingdom through salvation that we will give everything we have in order to purchase it. **The main difficulty of this teaching is that people are likely to think that they can enter the Kingdom of Heaven through their own sacrifices and efforts.**

We Need to See this Parable Through the Eyes of God Not Through the Eyes of Men. To Do this Let Us Again Study the Scriptures to See What They Intended to Say.

I. THE FIELD

II. THE MAN

III. THE TREASURE

I. THE FIELD

"The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field."

Matthew 13:44a

Again we have some very distinguished scholars who seem to have difficulty in their interpretation.

"To me, the field rather represents the outer visible Church, as contra-distinguished from the inward spiritual, with which the treasure would then agree."

R. C. Trench

I. THE FIELD (Contd.)

As we have said earlier it seems best to keep with a consistency of interpretation unless it would be impossible to do so. The "**field**" in ALL our other parables symbolized "**the world.**"

"the field is the world"

Matthew 13:38

This world is, of course, the globe on which we live and dwell. It is often questioned why God would want His Church to live in a world that He knew would become very corrupt and often would attempt to influence His blood-washed saints!

Jesus said,

"I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more that I am of the world.

15. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

16. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

17. Sanctify them by your truth; your word is truth."

John 17:14-17

While standing before Pilate, Jesus said,

"My kingdom is not of this world."

John 18:36

The beloved apostle wrote these words,

"for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

5. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

I John 5:4,5

The clear message is, "**the field is the world.**"

II. THE MAN

"When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field."

Matthew 13:44b

WHO is this man? If we again look back at the other parables we have studied thus far we will find the answer to this question. In the parable of the "weeds or tares" it was said,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field."

Matthew 13:24

"The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man."

Matthew 13:37

Therefore, we need to see that our Lord came to our world for a special purpose. This parable makes it very clear that this "man" was "the One" who searched us out and not we who searched Him out. We were lost Not Jesus. He found us, we did not find Him.

III. THE TREASURE

"The kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field."

Matthew 13:44a

When we understand what Jesus was saying here, we soon realize the value He places upon this treasure. This symbol brings many images into our minds.

I'm sure we've all dreamed of someday finding a valuable treasure. If we did, we would probably hide it again until we could properly take it home with us. We would carefully cover it over and then go and prepare a place for it so that no one could steal it from us.

We would not leave any opportunity for it be stolen from us in the future. The new place would have to be very secure. We would plan the time when we would return with great detail. The timing would be very important. We would almost want to come like a "thief in the night" to reclaim our treasure.

III. THE TREASURE (Contd.)

When God initially created this world with all its inhabitants and beauty, He saw that it was very good. It was His prized possession. It belonged to Him because He created it. As time went on, this creation left its purpose and became what it was never intended to be. God did not lose His desire to have fellowship with the greatest of His creation. **His desire to have the world He created was for the most part "hidden" from most because they did not have the eyes to see His plan.**

So the time came when He not only was **its Creator**, He also had to become **its Saviour**. **He came to earth to buy His treasure.** He **created it** and then He had to **redeem it**. He paid the ultimate price!

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

II Corinthians 2:4

Our Lord did not wish to exclude anyone from being His treasure. He wanted all men to repent. Some chose not to. This did not change the fact that all could be redeemed.

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them."

II Corinthians 5:19

Due to man's choice he was either included or excluded from God's treasure. **The treasure became those who abided by God's government, principles and order.**

Jesus did not see the cost to purchase His creation as unreasonable. It may be surprising to us, but He considered it a joyful act.

"who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame . . ."

Hebrews 12:2

III. THE TREASURE (Contd.)

Our Lord sold everything He had to purchase all mankind.

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19. but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

I Peter 1:18,19

Jesus, after creating the world and beholding its value, left the world in order to return and purchase it. We don't usually have to purchase a treasure that we've found. But Jesus did so that no one could say He stole it.

*** King David was told to erect an altar to Jehovah on the threshing floor of Ornan in order to stop the sword of the angel from continuing to execute judgement.

The place as well as the sacrifice did not come cheaply. David would not offer a sacrifice that cost him nothing.

He paid 50 shekels of silver to have a place to offer his sacrifice. It was the redemption price for 100 souls. But he also purchased the area surrounding the altar for an additional 600 shekels of gold. This became the place where God chose to build His altar. It became the place where Solomon's temple was built.

Could this have been a symbol of what Jesus would do in years to come to redeem His creation? Jesus reached out to not just the 90 & 9 sheep but also to the 100th. As well, Jesus had to redeem His creation that groaned because of the result of sin.

The final receiving of His treasure is yet to come. He has already paid the price for it. He will soon come again to claim **His treasure (not treasures).** We are one body that comprise the Treasure of God. In any treasure there are a variety of precious stones & metals.

No wonder Jesus shared this parable privately with His disciples. The crowds of onlookers would never have understood this truth. Even the disciples would have to be given a revelation to understand its meaning. As they did, it would cause them great joy to know how Jesus felt toward them. It offers us a tremendous amount of hope and peace in this world of great trouble.

Thank God for the Parables of the Kingdom of God.

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.19\Parables/Matthew13_44.wpd

Date: Mar 10/19

Place: FCA Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Salvation Belongs to Our God - Bb

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INTRODUCTION - *Matthew 13:34; Psalm 73:16,17*

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I. THE FIELD - *Matthew 13:44a; Matthew 13:38; John 17:14-17; John 18:36; I John 5:4,5*

II. THE MAN - *Matthew 13:44b; Matthew 13:24; Matthew 13:37*

III. THE TREASURE - *Matthew 13:44a; II Corinthians 2:4; II Corinthians 5:19; Hebrews 12:2; I Peter 1:18,19*

When we understand what Jesus was saying here, we soon realize the value He places upon this treasure.