

Agape House of Worship

Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Topic: Speaking in Parables
Text: Matthew 13:44-46

Lesson 5: Parable of the Hidden Treasure & Pearl of Great Price
Speaker: Pastor Genevieve Kumapley

Message Introduction

When the apostle Paul reflected on his life experiences, he observed that his greatest human accomplishments were like rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:7-9). Even though he had much to be proud of, Paul willingly gave it all up so that he might know Christ and be found in Him.

Although the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price are some of the shortest parables of Jesus, their rich imagery powerfully expresses what Paul learned to be true, that Jesus Christ is the greatest treasure that any person could ever hope to attain. The lesson today focuses on 2 of the parables that Jesus shared with disciples. 1) The Hidden Treasure & the Pearl; Jesus begins by describing the Kingdom of Heaven (other references as Kingdom of God) as a treasure or a pearl.

Objectives

- Discuss the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price in Matthew 13:44-46.
- To examine subjective and objective ideas of value.
- To discuss the need for fallen humans to value the things that God values.
- To exalt Jesus Christ as supremely valuable, worthy of abandoning all for the sake of receiving Him.

“God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

“Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it. Matthew 13:44-46. The Message

- ***Where is the Kingdom of God?***
- ***What do you consider as a treasure?***
- ***How would you define value?***
- ***What do people consider as valuable versus what God determines as valuable?***
- ***What is the main point of this parable?***

Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

Pearls are mentioned 5 times in the bible. **What were they considered?** (Matthew 7:6; 1 Timothy 2:9; Revelation 17:4; 18:12; 21:21).

Matthew 7:6 – “Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy [dogs]. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.” [NLT]

1 Timothy 2:9 – I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,

Revelation 17:4 – The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. (Rev 18:12, 18:16 similar) Revelation 21:21 – The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

So the Bible says three things about pearls: they are holy, valuable, and used in the building of heaven.

What is the point of this parable? How is this different from the previous one?

Key Take Away Points:

The Treasure

- *The Kingdom of God is a treasure (invaluable); it is there and available to everyone but not visible to everyone. (we are all under dominion of God but not necessary part of the Kingdom). The finding of the Kingdom gets people excited. They know about him but they often stop there. Some don't go all the way.*
- *Realization of the value of salvation*
- *Determination to get it all cost. (Means leaving the earthly comforts for the heavenly gains while on earth)*
- *Selling all we have in exchange for Christ*
- *The joy we have for being a citizen of the Kingdom. We don't take that for granted.*

The Pearl

- *The mass search for meaning in life; and recognition that I don't have the most important thing in life*
 - *Finding the most invaluable relationship*
 - *Selling (leaving behind the intellectual knowledge I have to achieve and attain that relationship and all it offers*
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- ***Let's share your salvation experience. Were you a stumbler and an active seeker?***
 - ***What have you joyfully given up to attain the fullness of Christ?***

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." Philipians 3:7-11

*"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, **namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**" Colossians 2:2-3*

- ***Jesus considers everyone as invaluable***
- ***He desires that we will have the same burden for everyone to access the treasure of knowing Jesus as their Lord and savior***

In conclusion: The value of the Kingdom of God (salvation and the benefits it offers) cannot be estimated. It exceeds any treasure or anything we can own; it calls for us to recognize the value and give it our all with Joy; it means sharing with others the joy we have as a member of the Kingdom of God. In the same Jesus sees as invaluable part of the Kingdom.