UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

(08/06/2023; Wednesday Gathering; Matthew 13:44-50; Markes Wilson; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: The Kingdom of Heaven is the wonderful treasure of salvation, whether it is unexpected or sought after. The final judgment is certain, so treasure Christ and the Kingdom here and now, and you also will for all eternity.

I.   The Nature of Parables – Read Matthew 13:34-35

A.   Read Matthew 13:34-35. What is the purpose of Jesus speaking in parables to the crowds? How does Jesus fulfill the words of the prophet from Psalm 78?

B.   In what ways do Jesus' parables both reveal and conceal truth? How is this method significant to the ministry of the Lord Jesus?

II.   Kingdom of Heaven in Salvation and Judgment – Read Matthew 13:36-50

A.   As you read the parables, what comparisons and contrasts do you make from this section?

B.   Read Matthew 13:44-46. What is the response of those who find the treasure and the pearl? What causes these characters to sell all for the sake of the one great prize?

C.   What does the parable of the Net teach us about the final judgment? Why is it sometimes difficult to discern who is and who is not part of the kingdom?

D.   What is the main point that Jesus desires to teach the crowds in verses 44-50?

E.   How could you use the parables of the Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price to respond to someone who says, "I want to follow Jesus, but I don't want to make drastic changes in my life"?

III.   Kingdom of Heaven Applied

A.   What unhelpful conceptions of the Kingdom of Heaven has Matthew 13 corrected for you?

B.   As you evaluate your heart, what are some areas in your life that can tend to become more precious to you than your quiet time with the Lord and your involvement in the local church?

C.   What would be evidence that would demonstrate that Jesus is the supreme treasure in your life? Would you say that Jesus is your greatest treasure? What tangible steps could you take to treasure Christ in the various areas of your life this week?