



What Do You Truly Treasure?

By Jeff Bedwell on December 9, 2022

READING: Matthew 13

Jesus often taught in parables. This chapter is filled with parables of the kingdom of Heaven. Today, let's focus on two short parables:

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44–46, ESV).

These two parables are similar and distinct.

1. They both recognized the value of what they had found (one by accident, one through searching).
2. They determined to have it whatever the cost (they valued the treasure above all that they had).
3. They sold everything to obtain the treasure (note the joy in doing this).
4. They obtained the treasure.

When we are truly gripped by the reality of the treasure of the kingdom of heaven that is made possible because of the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it changes everything in our lives. It changes our values, our priorities, our passions--the way we spend our time and our money.

Through this parable, Jesus is reminding us that the kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for. There is great joy and reward in submitting to the redemptive rule and reign of God in Christ. This joy and reward are greater than anything this world can offer us. As Paul said, *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"* (Philippians 3:7–8, ESV).

Jesus is speaking to disciples who, like the men in these parables, would lose much for following Christ; in fact, many of them would go on to lose their lives. But they were following a King who promised, *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life"* (Matthew 19:29, ESV). We joyfully treasure Christ above all else; He is the greatest treasure!

What do you truly treasure? What is it that you joyfully reorient your life around? In the end anything other than the kingdom of heaven--the redemptive rule and reign of God in Christ--will ultimately be a bad bargain.

PRAYER: "Father, help me treasure Christ and His Kingdom above all else. Only when Christ is in His rightful place will everything else in my life be in its right place."

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Matthew 14

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