

Matthew 13:44-58

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (44)

- ◆ “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.
- ◆ The kingdom of heaven is such a precious treasure, when you find it you’ll let go of everything so that you acquire it. When one finds it, it becomes their everything; they don’t need anything else but it. Paul is an example, when he found the kingdom or when the kingdom found him, he didn’t care about his life anymore (“Philippians 1:21 – To live is Christ, to die is Christ”)

The Parable of the Pearl (45-46)

- ◆ “Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.
- ◆ In this life we’re in search for a lot of things; money, peace, love, joy, etc. When we find the kingdom of heaven, it is so unique that we go out of our way to acquire it, we we’ll have to let go of all we have to get it. The kingdom is all in one, it offers us all we’re searching for but also with its fair share of trials and tribulations. The disciples are an example losing everything to gain the kingdom. The rich man who needed the kingdom but couldn’t let go of his wealth is an example of how we can lose out on the kingdom by not letting go.

The Parable of the Net (47-50)

- ◆ “Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish. When the net is full, they pull it to shore and sit down to divide the fish: the good ones go into the buckets, the worthless ones are thrown away. It will be like this at the end of the age: the angels will go out and gather up the evil people from among the good and will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth.
- ◆ The parable of the net is a prophecy of what will happen at the end of times. If we believe in it we’ll lead good lives, if we don’t we’ll lead stray and bad lives. The choice is ours.

New Truths and Old (51-52)

- ◆ “Do you understand these things?” Jesus asked them. “Yes,” they answered. So he replied, “This means, then, that every teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of heaven is like a homeowner who takes new and old things out of his storage room.”
- ◆ The teachers of the law who are accustomed to old ways should also accept these new ways if they are to be disciples of the kingdom. Both the old and the new ways will serve them and others well.

Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth (53-58)

- ◆ When Jesus finished telling these parables, he left that place and went back to his hometown. He taught in the synagogue, and those who heard him were amazed. “Where did he get such wisdom?” they asked. “And what about his miracles? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother, and aren't James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? Where did he get all this?” And so they rejected him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is respected everywhere except in his hometown and by his own family.” Because they did not have faith, he did not perform many miracles there.
- ◆ Jesus was rejected in his own home town, people were amazed by his wise words and deeds but they were sceptical of the source of all the wisdom and miracles. These people made a mistake of denying Christ because they knew him well and they thought of him as ordinary, we shouldn't get caught in such a trap. When people we know do amazing things, let's not dismiss them early but give them time, with time the fruits they produce will show us where they stand. Also this verse can be used by false prophets to manipulate us, hence, we ought to be vigilant.