

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

The Value of The Kingdom

TEXT: Mt. 13:44-46

INTRODUCTION – Two weeks ago I brought to your attention what Jesus said about the Kingdom of Heaven – how men enter it by hearing and believing the gospel. And wow, has not God let us see the words of the Lord made real right before our eyes last week? Among the public decisions during Team Impact we had

79 – Professions of Faith

28 – Re-commitments of Lives to Christ

Now as Jesus told us in His parable, some of those responses will prove to be shallow and emotional, and we will never see those people again.

Others were sincere in their heart, but even this week they have turned the focus of their heart off of Christ and back on their worries about the things of the world.

But some of those were genuine in the depth of their soul in trusting Jesus as their Lord and Savior and surrendering their lives to Him. Some of them, in spite of the devil trying to dissuade and discourage them, have remained steadfast and faithful to the commitment they made to the Lord Jesus, and they are here today or in another Bible believing church beginning their new walk of faith in Christ.

Give those folks a hand. Give God glory for saving them. Encourage them by showing the joy of your heart that they have come to Jesus.

Remember that when Jesus told this story, the disciples did not fully understand, and so later when the Lord was alone with them, He explained the meaning of the story. After He did, Jesus told three more stories. The first two go together, and we are going to think about them this morning.

Mt. 13:44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Mt. 13:45-46 ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- Burying treasure was common in ancient times
- Buried treasure was sometime left due to death or forced evacuation
- Pearls were the most precious of all jewels before and during the life of Jesus.
- Cleopatra had two pearls valued at several million dollars each in today’s money.

The messages in these two stories are not difficult to discern but carry enormous importance about the value of the Kingdom of Heaven.

I. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WORTH MORE THAN ANYTHING.

The treasure in the field is so valuable the man sells all that he has in order to buy the field so the treasure will be his.

The pearl was of such size, such quality, such beauty, such value that the merchant sold all that he had, including all his other pearls, in order to buy this one pearl.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like the treasure.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like the pearl.

The Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than anything else.

The Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than everything else combined.

Why is this true?

- A. Because **the Kingdom of Heaven – salvation – brings forgiveness.**
- B. Because **the Kingdom of Heaven – salvation – brings joy.**
 - 1. That is why the man bought the field.
 - 2. That is why the man bought the pearl.
 - 3. They had prospects of greater happiness, greater joy.
 - 4. Salvation brings greater joy in this life.
 - a. Not a promise of no problems or heartaches – but help, comfort, and company in the valley of trouble
 - b. I have stood with people at the depth of human tragedy. **Those whose citizenship is in the Kingdom of Heaven come through with the greater joy every time.**
 - 5. **Salvation – the Kingdom of Heaven – brings indescribable and unending joy in the days, years, and centuries to come!**
- C. Because **the Kingdom of Heaven – salvation – brings eternal life.**

II. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WORTH SACRIFICING EVERYTHING TO GAIN IT.

These words of Jesus reveal a paradox – two statements that appear to be contradictory, nevertheless are both true.

- **Salvation is a free gift.**
- **Salvation costs you everything.**

- A. **Salvation is a free gift that we cannot buy, earn, or deserve.**

Rom. 6:23 **For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

B. We must surrender everything to receive eternal life.

John MacArthur comments, “Of one Jesus demanded the sacrifice of comfort”

Mt. 8:19-20 ¹⁹Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” ²⁰And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”

“Of another He required the sacrifice of inheritance.”

Mt. 8:21-22 ²¹Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ²²But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

“Of still another he told him to give up wealth he already possessed.”

Luke 18:18-24 ¹⁸Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. ²⁰You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

²¹And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

²²So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²³But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

²⁴And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

So how can both of these things be true?

- **Salvation – the Kingdom of Heaven – was purchased by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ upon the cross, and it is offered to us by Jesus as a free gift to be received.**
 - No one has ever possessed anything sufficient to pay for this salvation: not riches, not ability, not goodness, not consecration. The very best of the very best is nothing but filthy rags in the eyes of God.
 - Only the blood of the perfect sinless Son of God was of sufficient value to purchase eternal life.

- So, salvation was purchased by the shedding of the blood of Jesus upon the cross and is offered to us as a free gift to be received.
- **To receive the gift of eternal life purchased by Jesus we must do two things.**

Rom. 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- We must believe Jesus was raised from the dead.
- We must confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord.
 - ✓ Confessing Jesus as Lord means surrendering to His control of our lives.
 - ✓ Confessing Jesus as Lord means surrendering all to Him.

Therefore,

- C. Salvation is a free gift that we cannot buy, earn, or deserve; we can only receive it from Jesus Who paid for it on the cross.**
- D. We must surrender everything to receive eternal life because we only receive it when we make Jesus the Lord of our lives.**

The Kingdom of Heaven is the treasure of the field, the pearl of great price, that is worth more than any of us could ever pay, but can only be received when we surrender all to the One Who bought it!

CONCLUSION: In conclusion I want to ask you to note one more thing, and maybe this is the reason Jesus made these points in two stories instead of one. Because the two stories are almost exactly the same except for one thing.

The man who bought the field to gain the treasure stumbled on the treasure almost by accident.

The merchant who bought the pearly of overwhelming value had been searching for pearls of great value for years and years.

And so it is with people who find the great value of the Kingdom of God and choose to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior and therefore receive it.

Some are like Paul, who were not looking for the Kingdom of Heaven at all. In fact, Paul, or Saul as he was called then, thought he already had it. He was on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus when the Lord appeared to him on the roadside. He literally stumbled upon the truth, but when he did, he believed and trusted in Jesus as his Lord, surrendered his life to Christ.

And so were some of you. Some of you stumbled upon the truth of the Kingdom of Heaven last week. You came to see big strong men break stuff, and you learned how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. That's not why you came, but that's what happened. You believed and trusted Christ as your Lord and surrendered your life to Him and were saved.

But some are like the pearl merchant and like the Ethiopian who was seeking God, seeking the way of eternal life. Somehow he had managed to get a copy of the Hebrew prophet Isaiah and was studying his writings, having difficulty understanding, but he was trying to find his way into the Kingdom of Heaven for all he was worth. And God promises that the one who seeks Him with all their heart will find Him, and God sent a messenger to explain the truth and the Ethiopian believed and trusted in Christ as his Lord and was saved.

And some of you came to Christ that way. You were seeking God. Maybe you had tried several ways to find Him. But then through His Word, He revealed His truth and you believed and trusted Jesus as Lord, surrendered to Him, and received the gift of eternal life.

And friend I point this out because there are some of you here this morning who do not yet have the treasure worth more than anything in all the universe. You have not yet received the gift of eternal life because you have not yet surrendered to Jesus as Lord of your life.

It does not matter whether you came here to find out how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven or for some other, even some very non-spiritual reason, now you know. Now you know how you can have the most precious gift, the gift of eternal life, that you can receive by believing Jesus died for your sin upon the cross, rose from the dead, and inviting Him to become the Lord, Master, and Savior of your life.