

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Matt. 13:44

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the East people often buried their treasure in the earth.
 - (1) They had no banks or vaults.
 - (2) Quite often a man who had buried treasure would die without telling anyone where it was buried.
 - (3) The Treasure would be found, many times, years later.
2. In this parable, and the Parable of the Goodly Pearl, the Lord is emphasizing the value of the kingdom, the value of the Word of the Kingdom -- Matt. 13: 19
3. In the two parables, there is one outstanding difference:
 - (1) In this parable the man just by chance found the hidden treasure.
 - (2) The merchant was seeking the Pearl -- Matt. 13: 45 - 46
4. The truth may be found by these means:
 - (1) One who is not concerned about his soul might by chance hear the truth and be moved to obey it.
 - (2) One, on recognizing he does not have the truth, seeks after it till he finds it.

I. THE VALUE OF THE KINGDOM

1. The VALUE OF THE CHURCH is properly illustrated by the parable.
2. The Lord values the church, or kingdom, as being worth EVERYTHING.
 - (1) The man sold all he had and bought the field -- Matt. 13:44
 - (2) Christ gave Himself for the church -- Eph. 5: 25; Acts 20:28
 - (3) When we give up everything for the Kingdom we EXHIBIT the value that we place upon it.
 1. Paul -- Phil. 3: 4 - 8
 2. Christ, Truth, and the Kingdom must come before family and friends -- Matt. 10:37; Luke 9: 57 - 62; 9:23; Lk. 14:33
 3. Some will think that we are foolish for giving up everything for Christ and His church -- Matt. 6:33
 - (1) Paul referred to the gospel as "TREASURE" -- II Cor. 4:7
 - (2) In Christ "UNSEARCHABLE RICHES" -- Eph. 3:8
 - (3) In Christ are "ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE" -- Col. 2:3
 - (4) ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS are in Christ -- Eph. 1:3
 - (5) All these blessings we enjoy in Christ are enjoyed in the Church, the fullness of Christ -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
 4. The Lord's value and Man's value of the church may differ greatly.

II. THE VALUE THAT SOME PLACE ON THE KINGDOM, OR CHURCH:

1. Some value the church so highly that they are willing to give up their jobs, their pleasure, their money and their friends if necessary in order to be faithful to Christ in His Kingdom -- I Cor. 15:33; I Thess. 5: 22; Matt. 6:33
2. Some place little or no value on the church, Christ, and the gospel, except under extreme circumstances.
 - (1) Some, when they are old and broken, and on the last mile of the way, place value on the Kingdom.
 - (2) It is bad for one to live for the devil all of his life and only value the Kingdom in the end of life.
 - (3) Men need to come in obedience to Christ at ANY AGE.
3. Some regard being a Christian a waste of time, effort and money.
 - (1) These are people who are lovers of their own selves -- II Tim. 3:2
 - (2) There are people who are going to enjoy Sin at all cost -- II Tim. 3:4; Heb. 11:25
4. People who place the proper value upon the church express a deep and abiding interest in it.
 - (1) They are interested in its growth -- and in their own growth.
 - (2) They are interested in its soundness doctrinally--and in their own soundness.
 - (3) They are interested in its moral purity -- and in their own purity.
5. The denominational world does not believe that the church is a valuable treasure -- they teach:
 - (1) "One church is as good as another."
 - (2) "One does not have to be a member of the church to be saved."
 - (3) The New Testament teaches the Saved are added to the church -- Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23
6. Liberal brethren do not value the Kingdom very highly
 - (1) In their way of thinking it is not sufficient.
 1. It needs human helps of all kinds.
7. Some members esteem the church very lightly.
 - (1) Some will miss services for business.
 - (2) Some do not support its work well with their money.
 - (3) Some will miss services for visiting...
 - (4) Some will miss for recreation and entertainment.

III. WHY THE KINGDOM, OR THE CHURCH, IS SO VALUABLE:

1. The Kingdom, or church, is SAVED -- Acts 2:47
 - (1) One enters the Kingdom by the new birth -- John 3:5; I Cor. 13:12
2. The Kingdom, or church, has been PURCHASED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST -- Rev. 5: 9 - 10; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25
3. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in Christ are enjoyed in the church -- Eph. 1:3; 2:6; Eph. 1: 22- 23
4. CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THE BODY, the church -- Eph. 5:23
5. The church is THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH -- I Tim. 3:15

CONCLUSION:

1. This heavenly Treasure is IN REACH OF ALL.
2. The Gospel is for ALL -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16
3. The man that found the Treasure hit it in a field, and sold all he had to buy the field.
4. So it is with the Kingdom -- we must give up all that would keep us from putting it FIRST -- Matt. 6:33

Donald Townsley

(Hebron Lane, Shepherdsville KY 1988)