



OPENING SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NLT)

INTRODUCTION: In the parables of Jesus, in Matthew, He gives Principles of the Kingdom of Heaven. He also gives parallels and contrasts. In these two parables we will look at today, there is a treasure in a field and a merchant looking for pearls. In this message we will look at the simple message behind these and the two questions we must ask ourselves...I believe these two questions are timely for this hour we find ourselves living today.

MAIN TEXT: Matthew 13:44, 45-46

OUTLINE:

I. The Treasure of God's Kingdom

A. "Hidden" The man is any lost person who discovers the secrets of the Kingdom...The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Treasure. He finds that in the regular run of the mill day or field, he has discovered that there is a great treasure right in the midst. So he hides this fact and sales everything he owns to purchase the field, so that he can own the treasure too. He bought the field...but he paid nothing for the treasure!

i. The man's life was changed, started a new living, because of the Free gift that God has provided for us, right in front of us.

B. "Joy" Those who discover the Kingdom find greater joy in it than can be found in any temporary pleasure in this world. **Romans 8:18**

- **Nothing is more precious than the kingdom of Heaven and its value exceeds all other treasures, and so everything should be forfeited to be apart of it.**

Here is our first Questions:

- "how strongly do you desire deeper relationship with God? How much would you give up to know Him? What do you seek fulfillment in, during your free time?" Basically, **what would you give up for God?**

II. The Kingdom's Price for Pearls

A. "The Merchant" in this story is the Kingdom of God itself. The Kingdom pays the ultimate price to purchase the pearl. Jesus was the price God was

willing to pay to redeem us from our sins and its deadly eternal consequences. Jesus is the darling of Heaven, the Kingdom's greatest Treasure...and HE was spent for us. Wow!

- i. **So the parable is about how much we mean to God and how much Christ should mean to us.**
 - ii. **Nothing is worth more than this treasure of a relationship with Christ.**
 - **We don't buy our place with God, God buys our place with God! But Why?**
- B. "Great Value"** Why would God consider us so valuable? God desires us to be with Him even though we have nothing to offer Him! So Why pay such a great price?
- i. **We want to be special and unique...we long to be wanted...but we are not wanted because we bring value to God's Kingdom.** If that was the case, if it was only our wit, strength, intellect, talents, good deeds, special gifts that caused us to be valuable to God's Kingdom, then what would happen when age, sickness, disease, or injury still these from us?
 - **I tell you, when you are older, aged, sick, poor, or discouraged...you are no less valuable to God's Kingdom! Your value does not change...because it is not based on your deeds. *One of the bondages that Jesus breaks when we find the treasure in this earthly pallet of fields, is that we are responsible for earning a greater value for ourselves.***
 - ii. **Our value comes from the One who bought us!**

I've shared this before, but it is so powerful: When God looks at us and says: "Well done my Good and Faithful Servant...**Matthew 25:23a** He was talking about the Work of Jesus! The second part of that verse **Matthew 25:23b**, God is talking to you.

The Second Question is this: **What is the Kingdom willing to pay for us...the pearls?**

Zachariah 12:10 (NLT) The Kingdom & all of heaven grieved for the Son's death.

Fear not! This is not a bait and switch...God does not pay such a high price and then expect you to pay the price... or climb on a cross. He simply asks you to bear the cross! What is bearing the cross? It is living in dept to Jesus...it is serving His kingdom with Joy unspeakable! It is Sharing the Gospel with the World! Help others find that in their mundane world, there is a Treasure buried right in front of them!