Pearl Of Great Price

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 23rd, 2018

Text: Mt. 13:44-46

### Intro

1. Mt. 13:44-46: Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price
2. Hidden Treasure: Man finds a treasure hidden in a field, hides it, sells all he has and buys the field – found treasure unexpectedly!
3. Pearl of Great Price: Man seeking for pearls (treasures) finds one of “great value (price),” sells all he has and buys it.
4. The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price represent the “kingdom of heaven.”
5. Mankind seeks for treasures, for things of great value;
   1. <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2012/06/27/ancient-coins-worth-15-million-found-by-amateur-treasure-hunters-after-30-year/> (June 2012)
   2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coins-celitish-hoard-jersey-archaeology-ancient-celts-a7539501.html> (January 2017)
   3. Fox News reported that two amateur treasure seekers in the UK found the greatest hoard of Iron Age silver and gold coins ever found! (Reg Mead & Richard Miles)
   4. They found a block of clay weighing a ton that contained 30,000 to 50,000 coins dating to the 1st century! Excavation took from 2012 to early 2017!
   5. The coins are now at the Jersey Heritage Museum for cleaning and examining. Estimates value the find at over $15M (U.S.)
   6. The men have been searching that land for 30 years! *It was worth their time!*
6. We recognize treasure, and things of value in our own lives and give up much to possess them.
7. Do we recognize the treasure of the gospel and the church enough to prepare ourselves to give up all for it? Jesus said to store up treasure in Heaven – Mt. 6:19-21
8. The church is the Pearl of Great Price and is worth giving up all to inherit Heaven!

# Paul’s Treasure

* 1. These parables describe the value of the kingdom to the one who accidently finds it and for the one seeking it, though he may not have known what he was seeking for.
     1. The man in the field, though not purposely looking for it, its value is immediately known.
     2. The pearl merchant was looking for “fine pearls” but recognized a “pearl of great value,” which was worth more than anything he set out to find!
     3. Salvation is precious, and identified as more valuable than anything we may own by those who discover it and take possession of it!
  2. The apostle Paul discovered the treasure unexpectedly while seeking something else!
     1. Acts 9:1-2: While he was known as Saul of Tarsus he was on the road to Damascus to arrest Christians, both men and women, and bring them bound to Jerusalem.
     2. Acts 26:9-11: He thought it was the right thing to do!
     3. Acts 26:19-23: Once he met the Lord and obeyed the gospel *(Acts 22:16),* he did not hesitate to carry out God’s will, even at great cost to him! *(Acts 9:16)*
  3. Paul found the treasure that is salvation in Christ, and was willing to give up everything for it!

# What Paul Was Willing to Pay For the Treasure

* 1. Phil. 3:4-11
     1. Paul was a “Hebrew of Hebrews,” a Pharisee *(son of a Pharisee – Acts 23:6),* righteous according to the Law, and a persecutor of the church!
     2. He was taught by Gamaliel, strictly according to the Law *(Acts 22:3).*
     3. Phil. 3:7-8: He counted all those things which were cause of boasting in the flesh *(3:3-4)* to be “rubbish” next to the treasure of Christ!
     4. He “suffered the loss of all things” to win Christ!
  2. II Cor. 4:7: Writing of “the gospel of the glory of Christ” *(4:4),* Paul refers to it as “treasure.”
  3. Col. 2:1-3: Paul wrote of the “treasures of wisdom and knowledge” that are found in Christ!
     1. The knowledge of Christ is described as “wealth” (NKJ: “riches”)
  4. Paul considered Christ and His kingdom a “treasure” worth giving up all that one has, if necessary, to obtain.
  5. What makes the kingdom of Christ (Heaven) so valuable?

# The Kingdom of Great Value

* 1. A Refuge from the Powers of Darkness
     1. Col. 1:13-14: “He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” and in Christ we have forgiveness of sins.
     2. Outside the kingdom of God, one is in the kingdom of Satan – Eph. 2:1-3
        1. Trapped in various sins (II Tim. 2:26: “Held captive to do his will”)
     3. The kingdom of God offers deliverance and refuge from the guilt and dominion of sin (Rom. 6:17-18, 22), and the outcome is eternal life!
  2. A Domain of Righteousness, Peace and Joy
     1. Rom. 14:17: The kingdom of God is not about the social activities, but is “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
     2. Righteousness through faith in Christ – Phil. 3:8-9
     3. Peace from God (knowing our souls are secured) – Phil. 4:6-7
     4. Joy in the Lord, no matter the circumstances – Phil. 4:4; 2:17-18
  3. An Unshakeable Kingdom
     1. Heb. 12:25-29: Though the earth may be “shaken” (destroyed – II Pet. 3:10), the kingdom of God will never be destroyed! (Dan. 2:44)
     2. II Pet. 1:10-11: Saints are part of an “eternal kingdom,” which is our reservation in Heaven *(I Pet. 1:4).*
  4. Destined for Eternal Glory
     1. I Cor. 15:21-26: Presented to God by Christ at His 2nd Coming, those who are “holy and blameless” *(Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-8).*
     2. Mt. 13:41-43: At the Judgment Day the wicked will be punished, and “the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”
     3. From that time forward, those in the kingdom will always be in the presence of God – *I Thess. 4:17; Rev. 21:1-5, 9-12, 22-27*
  5. The kingdom of God is worth any price (sacrifice) we may have to pay to obtain it!

##### Conclusion

1. What is the value of the kingdom? If only we could ask…
   1. Stephen, the first Christian martyr recorded – Acts 7
   2. The early Christians who experienced persecution – Acts 8:1-4; Heb. 10:32-39
   3. The apostle Paul, who suffered the loss of all things for Christ – II Tim. 3:10-11; 4:6-8
   4. Our loved ones who died in Christ – Rev. 7:9-17
   5. Our Lord Jesus, Who gave up all to make it happen – Phil. 2:5-8
2. They would all agree it is worth it all!
3. How about us? *(Where is our treasure? On earth or Heaven? Mt. 6:19-21)*
   1. Are we willing to pay the full price to obtain the “treasure” of the kingdom?
   2. Our time, our priorities, our pride, our repentance, our lives, if necessary?
4. Our response to the gospel and the way we live our lives demonstrates our true estimation of the “treasure” of the kingdom!
   1. The men in the parable saw its value immediately and gave all they had to get it.
5. Are you willing to pay the price for the eternal kingdom of Christ?