

## The Parables of Jesus

### Lesson 13

#### Parables of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Value – Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus' parable of the pearl teaches that His Kingdom is valuable but hidden from people. There are a few people that will discover it and seek the Kingdom for all they're worth. Are you one of those people?

#### Setting for the Parable

The parable of the pearl of great price was spoken by Jesus to his disciples and it's another Kingdom parable. Its focus is the value and mystery of the Kingdom of God. This lesson will also study the seeker of the Kingdom. There are actually two types of people who value the Kingdom of God enough to respond to it with their lives. The parable of the hidden treasure, and its Scriptural companion, the parable of the pearl reveal two types of people who seek God's Kingdom. Which type of seeker are you?

#### Telling of the Parable

Jesus told his disciples that the Kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure...imperceptible but valuable. Jesus goes on to say that this treasure was hidden in a field and a man accidentally discovered it. He was overjoyed. After throwing dirt back over the top of the treasure the man ran off and sold everything he owned in order to buy the field and with it...the treasure.

The parable of the pearl on the other hand, displays a different scenario. A merchant was actually searching for fine pearls when he discovers one of great value. But what we see is the response to the discovery is the same in this parable. The purchase of the pearl cost the man everything he owned.

Keep in mind this distinction between the two parables as we move forward in our study...in the first parable, the man was not seeking the treasure and in the second, the man was seeking it. We will discover and discuss the importance of this as we talk about the meaning of these parables.

#### Meaning of the Parable

Jesus' parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value reveal two high priority truths. First...the Kingdom of God is of greatest value to people. The treasure and pearl represent the Kingdom to people because people place the greatest earthly value on riches. The Kingdom is spiritual and abstract to human beings so Jesus gives something to grasp onto when imagining His Kingdom. To Jesus, the Kingdom is of the highest value and worth selling everything we possess to acquire a place in it.

Second...these parables inform us that the Kingdom of God is hidden. The world at large does not perceive it. It is mysterious. A person cannot naturally recognize it and needs divine help to do so. Let's turn our attention to those people who eventually discover the Kingdom and how that process happens.

The parables described two different individuals...one who was not necessarily seeking the Kingdom and the other searching for something similar to the Kingdom but unsure of its nature. While they both eventually discover the Kingdom, they came about it in totally different ways.

The parable of the hidden treasure tells of a man who accidentally discovered the Kingdom. He was shocked because he wasn't searching for anything...he was simply working in a field and there it was...a treasure of infinite worth. He was overjoyed by the discovery.

This type of person is similar to a lot of us. We didn't care about the things of God, weren't searching for God yet He came and found us. We realized the precious, wonderful treasure He offered and we accepted Him.

The parable of the pearl tells of a man who was searching for something...something to meet his needs. His pursuit led to his discovery of the Kingdom. Like the first man, he was overjoyed with the discovery.

This type of person is like so many in our world today. They are searching for something that will satisfy and fulfill...trying everything this world can offer and one day finds what truly satisfies and fulfills. They now possess the greatest thing in the world...a place in the Kingdom of God.

Regardless of how people realize their need for salvation, the response to the discovery must be the same. We must all be "saved by grace through faith" in Jesus Christ.

Always keep in mind that God uses us to share the gospel message and win people to Him.

### **Get This!**

These parables both speak of people who find salvation... in different ways...but find it nonetheless. As Christians, we must realize that people need a relationship with Jesus and it's our responsibility to go and tell. We have what this lost and dying world needs...salvation. Whether we see someone searching or not, it is our job to tell them how they can be saved and have the guarantee of eternal life.

Jesus calls us to an all or nothing commitment to Him. As we've discussed many times before, He either has all of you or He has none of you. There is no in-between.