

## The Value of the Kingdom

Matt. 13:44-45

### Introduction:

1. Most of us are looking for a bargain. Advertisers entice us with coupons and going out of business sales. New cars are advertised by how many thousands of dollars we can save if we buy now. Shopping by its very definition suggests that we are looking for the best deal and many times we will buy things we don't even need because "the price is right."
2. In Matt. 13:44-45 Jesus identifies two individuals—one described simply as "a man," the other as "a merchant." Both of them were looking for a good deal and found it.

### Discussion:

- I. In the first parable the kingdom of heaven is described as a treasure hidden in the field.
  - A. In the past hiding a treasure was probably more common than it is today.
    1. We may be more prone to put our treasure in a bank or a safety deposit box or a safe, but the idea is the same—that which is of high value needs to be kept secure.
    2. This man found a treasure.
      - a. Where was the owner? Was he deceased? Had he been hindered from retrieving his treasure? Perhaps he considered it secure and not needing to be retrieved at this time. We know nothing of this man except what is implied and that is that he too recognized a treasure and had hidden it.
      - b. The man who found the treasure in the field hid it again. He recognized that the current hiding place was not sufficient. You might think he was unethical in doing this, that he should have searched for the owner or turned the treasure over to the one who owned the field. But that is not what he did.
    3. He secured the whole field.
      - a. His hiding the treasure again indicates the value he placed on it.
      - b. His buying the whole field indicates that he placed very high value, not on the field, but on the treasure hidden in it.
      - c. His rejoicing over it indicates an intense emotional response. You know that emotional response when you are able to buy something that you really want and besides that you get a good deal.
  - B. The most interesting thing about this parable is that the man sold all he had in order to buy the field.
    1. The text does not say how much he had, but it does indicate that it took **everything** he had to buy the field.
    2. But he did it willingly recognizing that the treasure was more valuable.
    3. Let's imagine that you are the one who found the treasure. What would it mean for you to sell everything you have? House? Car/truck? Farm? Tools/equipment? Stocks, bonds, retirement account? Jewelry? Phone/computer/ipad? Furniture? Dishes, pots and pans, clothes, etc. Trip that you have paid money down on.
    4. Is there anything so valuable as this? For this man this treasure is that valuable.

Jesus' point is the kingdom of heaven is more valuable than all you have.

II. This second parable describes the kingdom of heaven as a pearl.

A. Most of us are not so familiar with the value of pearls.

1. But this man was. He was a merchant seeking fine pearls. His clients were not seeking the cheap pearls.
2. He found one of great value.

B. He went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1. In Luke 18 Jesus challenged the rich young ruler who had asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said, "I have kept the commandments from my youth." Jesus said, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me."
2. "Give it all up," Jesus said. Discipleship is not just about keeping commandments. It is about your comprehension of the value of the kingdom.
3. Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You." He sees high value in discipleship. Is he speaking of leaving his house, his community, his family?

III. Discipleship involves severe commitment.

A. When you make a commitment to one thing there is the giving up of others.

1. When you buy a car there is the giving up of all the others you were looking at.
2. When you choose a spouse there is the giving up of all others.
3. There is a sense in which commitment involves some sacrifice.
  - a. The man who found the treasure gave up everything else.
  - b. The merchant who found the pearl of great value gave up all that he had for it.
4. Commitment to the kingdom of God involves giving up everything else.

B. The commitment is severe.

1. Peter said, "We have left our own homes." Did he mean that they had left their houses? That would be pretty severe.
2. Note Jesus' response to Peter. "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come,

eternal

life."

3. What? Our commitment involves giving up people who are dear to us? "I could have sold all my possessions, but giving up my family? Wife, brothers, parents, children? You may not be able to do it, but the kingdom is worth it.

4. Lk. 14:25ff.

- a. Often we get caught up on the idea of hate.
- b. We are not even given the luxury of hating our enemies according to Matt. 5:43ff. How can we then hate our family?
- c. The idea is that we cannot love them more than the Lord (Deut. 21:15-17; Mal. 1:2-3). Thus the NASB marginal reading: "by comparison to his love for Me."

- d. Matt. 10:37 makes it clear: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”
5. Following the Lord is severe. It goes beyond family. We must love our own life less than the Lord (Lk. 14:26-27). Do you value the kingdom more than your own life? Jesus did! There are very few things worth giving your life for. The kingdom God is the most valuable one.

IV. It involves a severe decision (Lk. 14:28-33).

- A. You need to think through it carefully.
- B. Do you value the kingdom sufficiently to make this kind of commitment?
- C. Perhaps you need to study more. Perhaps you need to learn more about this kingdom so you comprehend more about its value.
- D. Some are looking for a bargain, but once they find it they are still not willing to pay the price. As one fellow put it, “I am looking for \$2 worth of God in a brown paper bag. Not enough to explode my soul, nor to make me love a migrant worker. Just give me \$2 worth of God in a brown paper bag.”
- E. Loyalty to God takes precedence over all other loyalties.

V. Discipleship involves reward.

- A. In both the parables (Matt. 13:44-45) the implication is that treasure and the pearl that represent the kingdom of heaven were worth the price paid.
- B. When Peter said, “We have left our own homes and followed You,” Jesus said, “There is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time, and in the age to come, eternal life” (Lk. 18:28-30).
- C. Mark’s account is more elaborate. “There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life” (10:29-30).
- D. There are rewards in this life.
  1. Houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and farms.
  2. Persecutions. “Why would I want to sacrifice everything and receive persecutions?” The kingdom of God is worth it. It is worth giving your life to/for.
- E. The reward in the next life—eternal life.

Conclusion:

1. Do you understand the value of the kingdom? Perhaps we are all in the process of understanding it more.
2. Are you thinking about making a commitment? Understand that it is severe.
3. If you have already made a commitment understand what you are committed to.
4. Will you give up everything?

