

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure



Matthew 13:44

○ **Review Lessons Taught:**

- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

1. What is a parable?

- **It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truth.**
- **The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- **A parable is thrown in to illustrate something abstract.**
- **Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**

2. The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

- **Jesus uses three symbols in this parable: The Sower (farmer), the Seed, and the Soil. (vs. 3-9)**
 - a. The Sower (farmer) represents Jesus Christ.**
 - b. The Seed represents the Word of God or the Word of the kingdom. (vs. 3-8)**
 - c. The Soil (the ground) represents the hearts of the individual hearer or the spiritual state of those in the world. (vs. 19-23)**

3. The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)

- A man sows good seed. The Man is Jesus Christ. (vs. 37)
- The good seed. The children of the kingdom of God. These are the righteous men and women of God. These are true believers of Jesus Christ. (vs. 24, 38)
- They are sown in His field. The “field” represents the world. The owner of the “field” (the world) – is Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:2, Psalm 24:1-2)

4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32) There are Four Things that Jesus describe in the Parable of the Mustard Seed. (vs. 31-32)

- Jesus Christ is describing the growth and greatness of His Kingdom. (Haggai 2:6-9, Hebrews 12:25-29, 1 Peter 4:14-17)
- Jesus Christ is describing the growth of Christianity and the effectiveness of His Church (the body of Christ) reaching the unbelievers or unsaved in the entire world. (Matthew 16:18, Acts 1:15, 2:38-47)
- Jesus Christ is describing the growth and effectiveness of every true believer. (Matthew 13:31-32)

5. The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)

- What is leaven or yeast?
- It is an agent used to produce fermentation in dough.
- Throughout ancient Israel, leaven was a piece of fermented dough that was kept from a previous batch that was placed in the new dough to cause it to rise.
- In the Bible “leaven (yeast)” is used as a metaphor that symbolizes an influencing agent that has the ability to permeate the whole lump (dough).
- Jesus used “leaven (yeast)” as a positive influence to describe what the Kingdom of heaven is like. (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)
- It symbolizes the growth and power of God’s Kingdom and its ability to affect the entire world through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44

- Jesus again uses a parable to describe the Kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 13:44)
 - What message is Jesus attempting to illustrate in the Parable of the Hidden Treasure? (Matthew 13:44)
 - The Parable of the hidden treasure contains three main points:
 1. The Discovery. “The man discovers something of great value.”
 2. The Delight. “The man’s delight had greatly superseded everything else.”
 3. The Decision. “The man’s decision to sell everything in order to possess it.”
 - In ancient times, in lands that were frequently invaded by forces, the people would bury their treasured possessions to prevent them from being discovered.
 - Oftentimes, they were forced from their land and unable to go back and retrieve their hidden treasures.
 - It’s important to note that ancient laws in those days governed the discovery of such treasures or riches.
 - It would have been unlawful for a workman or laborer to take the discovered treasure from the field and keep it for himself, since he didn’t own the field. It belonged to his master – the owner.
- A. Jesus uses this parable in such a powerful way to describe the Kingdom of heaven to his disciples. (vs. 44)
1. “like a treasure hidden in a field.” (vs. 44)
 - Jesus is making it very clear just how valuable the Kingdom of God is.
 2. “which a man found and hid.” (vs. 44)
 - Jesus is making it very clear about the character of the man.
 3. “and for the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field.” (vs.44)
 - Jesus is making it very clear that this man was willing to give up everything in order to retrieve such treasure.

- The Reflection Point – What did the God-Man Jesus Christ do for all humanity? Is the Kingdom of God worth giving up all to possess it? Is being a follower of Jesus Christ worth the sacrifice?
- Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man – He is the God-Man who came down through forty-two generations (Matthew 1:17).
- God wraps Himself up in flesh, and gave Himself a name that is above every name – Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11).
- Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).
- Jesus humbled Himself, suffered and died on Calvary’s cross (Philippians 2:7-8).
- Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).
- Jesus was the only one who could free and redeem man-kind from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).
- Jesus is the Mediator between God and men, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:5-6).
- God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:17).
- Jesus gave His life so that man-kind can have the right to eternal life and not perish for their sin. (John 10:28)
- Look to Jesus! He is the Author (The Originator) and Finisher (The Perfecter) of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

B. We must understand that this parable is not suggesting that in order to be saved, that you literally must go and sell all your possessions in order to come to Christ.

1. Salvation is a free a free gift of God’s grace through His Son Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. Jesus Christ purchased our salvation with His own blood. (Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Hebrews 9:12, John 3:16)
3. Through Jesus Christ, a person can be forgiven of all sin, made righteous in the sight of God and have the right to eternal life because of His death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 10:9, 11, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14)
4. Jesus is the only way to God and everlasting life. (John 14:6)

C. The Discovery of the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 13:44)

- “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid;”
- The man discovers something of great value.
- 1. Jesus understood how difficult it was for the people in that day to embrace the Kingdom of God coming to an individual.
 - He wanted His disciples to understand the significance of the Kingdom of God and its glorious eternal value that it possesses.
- a. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that the Kingdom of heaven is extremely valuable and nothing in the world can compare to it. (Luke 12:32-34)
 - They will discover what great treasure that they had found in Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.
 - They will discover the Supreme authority and power that God’s Kingdom possesses over all the earth and the universe.
 - They will discover the eternal value that the Kingdom of God possesses.
- b. Jesus wanted nothing more than for His disciples to know (intimacy, intimately) what the Kingdom of God was all about.
 - It’s about living under God’s rule and reign as Kingdom representatives for Jesus Christ.
 - It’s about God transforming an individual’s life through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - It’s about recognizing the joy and privilege of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)

D. The Delight of God’s Kingdom supersedes everything else in the world. (Matthew 13:44, Psalm 16:11, 37:4-5, 25, Nehemiah 8:10, Hebrews 11:6, Colossians 3:1-3, 1Peter 1:8-9, Romans 14:17, 15:13)

- “for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (vs. 44)
- The man’s delight had greatly superseded everything else.
- 1. True joy and peace can only be found in Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Kingdom. (Romans 5:1, 1 Peter 1:8-9, Philippians 4:6-7)

2. True joy and peace come from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and being in His presence. (Psalm 16:11)
3. True joy and peace come from delighting in God's desires and committing our ways to Him. (Psalm 37:4-5, 25, Proverbs 3:5-7)
4. True joy and peace come from knowing that we have eternal life through Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:25, 5:11-13, John 10:10, John 5:24, John 3:16, John 6:40)
5. True joy and peace come from knowing that we have an eternal home in glory that Jesus Christ is preparing for the children of God. (John 14:1-6, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1-4)