

The Kingdom Valued

Matthew 13:44-46

Introduction

Context - responses to the good news of the Kingdom as announced by John and Jesus

What is up with the majority of people, including leaders, either seeking to use Jesus or oppose Him?

Likelihood that this was spoken only to the disciples (v.36ff)

These parables are unique to Matthew

These parables as a couplet

A Hidden Treasure

The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field,
which a man found and covered up.

Then in his joy
he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.

A Precious Pearl

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like
a merchant in search of fine pearls,
who, on finding one pearl of great value,
went and sold all that he had
and bought it.

Similarities

- Both involve a man
- Both find something
- Both sell all that they have
- Both make a purchase to acquire what they found

Differences

- Their status - a servant/a merchant
- Their activity - accidentally found/searching for
- Their find - a hidden treasure/an available pearl
- Their payment - less than value/equal to value
- Their response - joy/?

Application/Participation

- Not an exhortation of how to think/feel about the Kingdom
- Rather, a statement of what happens when someone finds something of greatest value to them
- Connection with overarching context
- However, there is an implication to evangelism and the sovereignty of God
- We are presenting the Kingdom and the King as we wait on the new birth from above so someone can see and enter in

Application/Participation

- How the contrasts of these parables encourage us
- Whether you are relatively poor or wealthy...
- Whether you stumble upon or are searching for...
- If God gives you grace to “see the Kingdom of God”, you have been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom”, and blessed are your eyes that see and your ears that hear (the point of the whole chapter)

Application/Participation

In my estimation, contrary to common interpretation, the treasure and the pearl are the Kingdom of God as a whole

Often Jesus is put in that place

How that can go wrong...

Jesus as a personal counselor, forgiver of sins, fixer of problems isolated from the realities of **Kingdom**

A designer Jesus who fits my personal needs but does not impose on my life, only adds to it wellness

Consider what it means to preach **Christ**

Anointed, Messiah, King

Application/Participation

Not just the value of Christ, but His Kingdom

Could it be we need to shape our evangelism and thinking about salvation in larger Kingdom terms?

Could this be one of the contributions to the erosion of the church throughout our nation?

Could this be one of the reasons for an increasing sense of isolation, disconnectedness, and breakdown of society/community/family itself?

Paul proclaimed "the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." (Acts 28:31)
