

**Title:** The Kingdom of Heaven

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:34

**Series:** The Parables

1. Introduction –

- a. As a church, we have seen an incredible uptick in people either listening to or viewing our sermons. I say this because I believe that in these uncertain times of trouble, people have become more willing to explore the possibility of God. This is an incredible working of God as He makes himself known to those that are confused and worried about our current social state.
  - b. Because of these things, it is essential that, as a church, we continue to present the incredible beauty and blessing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is through this Gospel that men and women are converted and adopted into the family of God.
  - c. Today, it will be the purpose of the sermon to present the Gospel as a treasure of great value. It is by means of the Gospel, by means of Christ Himself, that man can be in right relationship with God.
    - i. We are going to consider the Kingdom of Heaven as presented in our passage in Matthew 13:44, *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure*.
    - ii. For the purpose of clarity, we must define the term parable.
      1. The word “parable” comes from the Greek word *παραβολη (parabolee)*. In the Greek, *para* means beside, and *ballo* means to cast or throw. Therefore, parable, in a fundamental sense, means to cast beside.
      2. A “parable” is an illustrative story, by which a simple idea is cast beside an unfamiliar one in such a way that the comparison helps the hearer understand the unfamiliar idea.
        - a. This is what Jesus was doing in our text. He was comparing the Kingdom of heaven to a great treasure discovered. His aim was to teach the hearer about the importance of the Kingdom.
  - d. Let us look at our passage
2. Verse 34: 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. In our passage, Jesus presents the Kingdom as a treasure of infinite value. We are presented with a man that is so overcome by finding a treasure that he stops at nothing to obtain it. Christ is comparing the Kingdom to treasure in order to teach truth in regards to the value of salvation. We can conclude a couple of things from an initial survey of our text:
  - i. First, the Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure of great worth.
  - ii. Secondly, any man should be willing to do whatever it takes to possess it.
  - iii. Thirdly, possessing this great treasure causes unspeakable joy.
- b. **The Kingdom of heaven** –
  - i. The question we must first ask is the following: What does Christ mean by the Kingdom of Heaven?
    - 1. The Kingdom of Heaven is understood to be equivalent to the concept of the Kingdom of God and fulfilled in a spiritual rule of God in the hearts of those who put their trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.
    - 2. In other words, the Kingdom of Heaven is that blessed state of salvation that is only possible through the Gospel as it presents Jesus Christ, the redeemer of fallen and sinful men.
    - 3. Therefore, to possess Jesus Christ is the only way that one can be included in the Kingdom of Heaven.
      - a. This is done by both the act of repentance and trust.
        - i. “Repentance for what?” you may ask. Repentance for the sin we have committed before a completely Holy God.
          - 1. We are an offense to God because we have violated His law.
        - ii. Trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - ii. We can conclude that Jesus Christ is the door; the access way to the Kingdom of Heaven.
    - 1. **John 10:9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
    - 2. **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- c. ...is like –

- i. These words allowed the hearers of Jesus parable to conclude that what was being presented was a simile. The words, “is like,” sets off a comparison between two things. The Kingdom of Heaven is an abstract concept for the hearers of the parable. A treasure in a field is something that is concrete. By comparing the concrete to the abstract, Jesus was teaching the hearers about the importance of the kingdom.
- d. ...**treasure** –
  - i. The kingdom is thus compared to a treasure. Since ancient times, we have had treasure hunters among our midst. Men and women who devote their lives to finding items of great value.
  - ii. The use of the word treasure evokes all sorts of evocative emotions. The hearer is immediately engaged imagining for himself what it would be like to find a great treasure that is hidden.
  - iii. Here we ask the question: Why does Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven to a treasure?
    - 1. The answer to our question is quite simple. Jesus wants to underscore the absolute value, significance, rarity, and importance of the Kingdom.
    - 2. Jesus intends for the hearers to understand the importance of salvation. They need to see salvation in the context of something so extremely valuable that once found, leaving it behind would be unacceptable and unconscionable.
      - a. Therefore, to reject the gospel offer of salvation is act of lunacy. It is an unpardonable act akin to finding a great treasure and walking past it.
      - b. Do you understand this today? If you are listening and you have thus far rejected the Gospel of Christ and Christ Himself, you have forsaken the greatest treasure that could ever be had.
- e. ...**hidden in a field which a man found**–
  - i. In our passage, the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a treasure that has been hidden in a field.
  - ii. We can conclude several things from this part of our parable.
    - 1. The treasure was not owned by the man who found it. He had not earned it any way and was just blessed to have found it.

- a. In presenting our parable in this manner our Lord is teaching all that hear that salvation, this great treasure, is not and could never be earned by the actions of men. There is great lie that permeates our society and has infected the majority of people. Most people view themselves as good people that are deserving of salvation. They view themselves as having earned God's favor.
    - b. Listen to me, this type of thinking is blasphemy for it denies what the Scriptures clearly teach about all humanity; mainly it denies the entire sinfulness of man and the absolute holiness of God.
      - i. **Romans 3:10 and 12** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one...(12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
- 2. The man in our story was not actively looking for the treasure. He stumbled upon it in an act of sovereign grace.
  - a. This second truth is that no one is ever actively seeking God through Jesus Christ. What I mean by this is that most men would be pleased to trust in their own goodness, look to religion, or keep some sort of moral standard as a way to feel accepted. However, there has never been anyone that on their own, apart from God's grace, has ever sought forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. We "find treasure" that has been left for us to find by God, by His empowering. Salvation belongs to God.
  - b. **Romans 3:11** no one understands; no one seeks for God.
- f. **...and covered up** –
  - i. Upon finding the treasure the man immediately takes steps to protect what he has found. His eyes opened to the worth of what has been found he wants to ensure that this treasure is not lost to him. He covers the treasure.
    - 1. So it is with those that God has been pleased with to make the treasure of salvation known to. Their eyes having been opened to the importance of the Gospel thy

immediately start to take steps to secure this great treasure to themselves.

- a. Is repentance required; then repentance will flow from their heart.
- b. Is belief required; then they will believe
- c. Is begging required; then they will beg.

2. Do you see the value of salvation in Christ? Has God opened your eyes to this great treasure? What are you willing to do to secure moving toward salvation?

g. ...**Then in his joy** –

- i. Notice what state floods the soul of a man that finds this treasure. He is overcome with joy; reasoning that his life will be forever changed by the happy discovery. He has been enriched to a state never before imagined.
- ii. What a wonderful thought this is. What incredible truth we find in this phrase. Are your eyes being opened to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Rejoice. Let your heart sing. You have been enriched beyond your wildest dreams.
  1. Blessed is the man whose sins are forgiven.
  2. Blessed is the man that stands in Christ's righteousness before a Holy God.
  3. Blessed is the man that is in relationship with the Father.
  4. Blessed is the man that does not fear the coming judgment.

h. ...**he goes and sells all that he has** –

- i. The man, fully aware of the value of what has been discovered, now sells everything he owns in the world in order to buy the land. He does this so that he can take rightful possession of the found treasure.
  1. How strange it must have appeared to all that knew him. How strange to see him divest himself of all earthly wealth and comfort to buy a parcel of land.
  2. His friends, family, and acquaintances must have riddled this man with questions, ridicule, and scorn. They were not been privy to the real treasure. However, none of that mattered to this man. He knew the value of the thing found.
- ii. Are you aware of the value of salvation in Christ Jesus? How far are you willing to go to know that you are saved?

1. Are you willing to divest yourself of all that you have in order to possess that which guarantees peace with God?
    - a. Can you walk away from the love of this world?
    - b. Can you walk away from the desires of the flesh?
    - c. Can you walk away from power, position, and reputation,
    - d. Can you face the accusations, reproaches, and scorn of those that would call you a fool for abandoning all in this world to obtain something for which they do not see the value?
  2. There must be a willingness to lose all that this world has to offer in order to gain Christ.
    - a. A camel cannot pass through a eye of needle.
    - b. Loss to gain is always inherit in the gospel.
- i. **...and buys that field** –
- i. It was the custom of ancient times for men to hide their valuables on their land. Sometimes, because of providence, the person that hid the original treasure would pass without anyone being aware of the treasure hidden on the land. This is the case in our story. The current owner of the land was not the owner of the treasure. He did not know that it was on the land. Therefore, the man that found the treasure could legitimately claim the treasure if he bought the land.
  - ii. Therefore, our character having sold everything he had, now proceeds to buy the field. He must take possession of the field in order for the treasure to be his legitimately.
    1. It was not enough to know about the treasure, or even know of its incredible worth. That would not enrich this man. In order to be enriched by the treasure he had to possess it; take it to himself.
  - iii. This leads us to our final truth. Perhaps you have heard of Jesus before. Perhaps you have even concluded that Christ is truly the only way to the Father; to salvation. Nevertheless, as far as you have not taken possession of the treasure for yourself, it has not enriched you at all. You remain in your sins! You remain separated from God and in spiritual danger!
  - iv. Christ must be appropriated. You must come to Christ and make Him your own. You must come to Christ in your sins seeking the riches of forgiveness. Until that happens, you remain a pauper.

3. Benediction –

- a. **Philippians 3:12-15** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

**Public Reading of Scripture**  
**Philippians 3:12-21**