

The Value of the Kingdom

Sermon 43 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 13:44-52

INTRODUCTION: What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

The Kingdom of Heaven/God is the Church and the long promised coming of Christ the King and the New Covenant.

I. Parable Five -- The Hidden Treasure v. 44

The man is the focal point of this parable, not the ethics involved.
The point is – he saw the value and sold all he had.
The treasure in the field was so great it was worth everything to obtain!

II. Parable Six -- The Pearl of Great Price v. 45

A merchant sells all that he has to buy this ONE PEARL.
He saw this pearl as more valuable than everything else he owned.

The first man was not searching, but he found the treasure.
In this parable – the merchant was searching and found a valuable pearl.

III. The Application of these Two Parables – Phil 3:7-10

It is the change in the heart and life of the man who is now a believer.
It is the great value in losing everything to gain the Kingdom.

A. Paul's "Gains" were really "Losses". v. 7

B. All Paul's "Gains" were Rubbish compared to New Life in Christ v. 8

1. Rubbish is actually a better translation than "dung".
2. "For whom I suffered the loss of all things"
3. The all-surpassing excellence of knowing Jesus Christ Lord.
My Lord – a personal relationship he never had before.
4. That I may Gain Christ

C. Alien Righteousness Explained v. 9

1. This Righteousness is Christ's Righteousness
The Book of Romans fully explains to us – what we have in short-hand here and what the Philippians knew very well from Paul's personal teaching to them.
 - Paul was righteous, because Christ is the Righteous One.
 - Paul's righteousness is a reality, because he is "in Christ".
 - It was his union with Christ that made the difference in everything!
2. This Righteousness does not come from law-keeping
 - Paul was not content to add Christ to his works.
 - Paul refused to even allow one tiny particle of his own ability and effort count toward his salvation.
3. This Righteousness is Appropriated by Faith
Faith is the means God uses to justify.

IV. Parable Seven -- The Dragnet 13:47-50

This is a companion parable to the Wheat and the Tares.

The gospel is to go out into all the world to every creature.

The dragnet (which is the gospel proclamation) picks up everything in its path – but not everything in its path is destined for a profitable use.

2 Cor. 2:15-16 -- ⁵For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?

V. Final Application -- Treasures New and Old 51-52

A. The Need for Spiritual Discipline (training)

B. The New and the Old

This was relevant for them, as they stood on the cusp of the full coming of the New Covenant.

C. Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

There are Didactic (teaching) passages

There are Narrative passages – the accounts of what happened

Doctrine is proclaimed in the didactic passages – which gives us the foundation to interpret the narrative passages.

Examples from the Book of Jonah