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Kingdom Worth and Kingdom Warning; Matt 13:44-50  
GPBC  
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Introduction – The first two parables of Matt 13 reveal who are the citizens of the kingdom. The second two parables explain the nature of the kingdom. The third set of two parables, the treasure and the pearl, set forth the worth and value of the kingdom to those who are its citizens.

You've heard the saying "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," well, this is that and more. The beauty of the kingdom, the value and worth of the kingdom are inherently part of the essence and nature of the kingdom. But not everyone sees that beauty. Not everyone appreciates that worth. Not everyone praises that value. But every true citizen of the kingdom does indeed highly prize and value and treasure the King and His kingdom.

The final parable in Matt 13 of the net sort of restates the truth contained in the parable of the weeds, but it makes specific application from the broader point of the parable of the weeds.

- I. The Treasure and the Pearl
  - a. Immediately we see the similarities of these two parables as teaching the same main point. The man who finds the treasure in the field and the merchant who discovers the pearl of great value both determine that possessing that treasure and possessing that pearl is worth the loss of any and everything else in order to have them.
    - i. The value of the treasure and the value of the pearl far surpasses the collected value of all their other possessions. The treasure is truly treasured and the pearl of great value is greatly valued! It was already treasure but this man came along and treasured the treasure. It was already a pearl of great value but this merchant came along and greatly valued it. The man and the merchant saw the treasure and the pearl for what they were in and of themselves and so desired to have them that they were willing to lose everything else to have them!

- b. Jesus says – the kingdom of heaven is like that treasure and it is like that pearl.
  - i. The kingdom of heaven is a treasure. The gospel is a treasure. Christ is a treasure. He is precious. He is supremely valuable above all else. He is worth everything, even life itself. You simply cannot put a price or a value or an estimated worth on eternal life – salvation – forgiveness – reconciliation to God – removal of wrath – rescue from sin – hope of everlasting life – peace with God, and that’s just His work.
  - ii. Think of His Person – there’s no number to adequately represent the value and treasure of who Christ is and the kingdom to which He brings us. He is the Infinite, radiant Prince of Glory and of Peace, the eternal Son of God, the glorious Promised One, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
  - iii. The kingdom of heaven is like that treasure in the field and that pearl of great value.
- c. But there’s more to these parables isn’t there? It’s not only that the treasure and the pearl are of great value in and of themselves, it’s also that the man who found the treasure and the merchant who found the pearl see them and know them for their immeasurable worth!
  - i. They consider having the treasure and the pearl as worth more than everything else they possess. Therefore, Jesus is also teaching us something here about the nature of true conversion.
  - ii. Is Christ to you a treasure above all treasures? Is Christ to you of far greater value than anything else? Do we see the kingdom as so immeasurably valuable that we would be willing to lose all in order to have it?
  - iii. That was certainly the case with the disciples when Jesus called them wasn’t it? Cf 4:18-22
  - iv. That was certainly the case with Matthew wasn’t it? 9:9
  - v. That was certainly the case with the Apostle Paul wasn’t it? Cf Phil 3:7-11
  - vi. The question is, is that the case with us? Is Jesus to us just a ticket to heaven or is He our life?

Just this past week 11 Christians were pulled off of a bus in northern Kenya and asked to recite the Islamic Shahada. They refused to do so and were shot and killed on site. Their names are Athanus Kiti, Enos Odhiambo, Kelvin Mandela, Wisely Meli, Tikane Kasale, Leonard Mukanda, Francis Mbuvi, Rodgers Machuka, Anchari Okerosi, Emmanuel Barasa and Nathan Bett.

- vii. You know why they refused to recite the Islamic Shahada, which is the major creed of Islam, there is no god but Allah and Muhammed is his prophet? You know why they refused to say that? Because the kingdom to them, Christ to them, the gospel to them is the greatest of all treasures, even to be valued more than this life! Life eternal is far greater!
- d. But there's even more here about true conversion.
  - i. Jesus says of the man, "in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
  - ii. It's not just that they valued the treasure and the pearl above all, but they did so with joy! They rejoiced to have that treasure and to have that pearl.
  - iii. That's true conversion. Conversion is not a cold, clinical, theological transaction; it's a joyful, exuberant transformation from death to life!
  - iv. When you find Christ, you find everything your soul desires, all that you long for, He is sufficient, He is enough, He is treasure!
  - v. If you went home today and found a check in your home made out to you in the amount of 1 million dollars, would you be happy? Would you have joy? Would you rejoice?
  - vi. My friends, when we find Christ we find more than money, we find more than this world can afford, we find more than we can imagine? How much more so do we rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of hope!
  - vii. We sing it at Christmas don't we? JOY to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing!
- e. Oh my friends, the kingdom is a treasure, Christ is a treasure, and those who find it, joyfully give up everything to have it. It may cost us friends, it may cost us employment or advancement, it may cost us ridicule and hatred, it may cost us our lives – but if we have Christ, we have the greatest treasure of the universe!

- f. One last point from these two parables – notice there is a difference between the man in the field and the merchant. The man happened upon the treasure, the merchant was looking for the pearl. We may come to Christ in different ways, we may come to the kingdom in different ways, as different people – but the reaction will be the same – joyful embrace of Christ and willingness to lose all to have Him!
- II. The Net
- a. The parable of the net is similar to the parable of the weeds. The weeds grow up with the wheat but at the harvest, at the end of the age, the weed is separated from the wheat. The weeds are bundled and thrown into the fire and the wheat is stored in the barn.
    - i. In the same way, the net draws up fish of every kind, but they are then sorted and the good fish are saved and the bad fish are thrown away – so at the end of the age, the evil will be separated from the righteous the thrown into the fiery furnace.
  - b. So in one sense both parables are teaching the same truth, but there is one major distinction. In the parable of the weeds, the field was the world, meaning that both believers and unbelievers are in the world and on the day of judgment they will be separated.
    - i. But in this parable, the net is the church. Jesus says, “the kingdom of heaven is like a net.”
    - ii. So even in the church there is a mixture of true faith and false faith, of believers and unbelievers, of those who are religious and those who have a relationship, of those who trust in their moralism and those who trust in Christ.
    - iii. Now what that means is that it is possible to go to church, to be a member of the church, and yet not be a believer. To be in church but not be in Christ.
  - c. So how do you tell the difference between those who are just in the church and those who are not only in the church, but are in the church because they are first and foremost in Christ?
  - d. Here’s how. Listen carefully. Vv44-46
  - e. Listen, oh hear me dear friend – there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, but there is also JOY – beyond measure and beyond worth!