

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

March 18, 2018

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Awesome

Job 37:22-24: "Out of the north comes golden splendor; around God is awesome majesty. The Almighty- we cannot find Him; He is exalted in power; and He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness. Therefore men fear Him; He does not regard any who are wise of heart."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Ps. 66:1-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #65, "Before Jehovah's Awesome Throne" *f. Psalm 100*

We Confess Our Sin

Daniel 9:4-7a, 16-19

Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly, and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land. Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame...

O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your [church]. . . ; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, [we] have become a reproach to all those around us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servants and to their supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O our God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the [church] which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications on account of any merit of our own, but on account of Your

great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O our God, do not delay.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #69, "Thy God Reigneth!"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Ps. 66:13-15

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #469, "How Sweet And Awesome Is The Place"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Ps. 66:16

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #358, "For All The Saints"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

## The Hidden Treasure and The Pearl of Great Price

Matthew 13:44-46

Study Notes for March 18, 2018

### I. Introduction

A. The Call of Christianity (cf. Lk. 9:23; Mt. 6:19-21)

B. The Parables of our Lord all revolve around “The Kingdom of God” (cf. Mt. 13:24; 20:1)...

1. What is the kingdom of heaven/God?

2. Answer

a. “The kingdom of heaven” and its synonymous phrase, “the kingdom of God,” refer to the reign and rule of Christ. Thus when we read that “the kingdom of heaven is like...” what we learn is something about the nature of the reign and rule of God either in heaven or on the earth.

b. In this regard, the Kingdom of God can have three time references...

### II. The Parables of our Lord, Mt. 13:44-46.

A. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure, v. 44.

#### V. 44a: The Buried Treasure

1. Palestine had few banks

2. Palestine was the Battleground of the Near East (cf. Mt. 25:25).

Josephus wrote, “The gold and silver and the rest of that most precious furniture which the Jews had and which the owners treasured underground was done to withstand the fortunes of war.”

R. T. France wrote, “Before banking was generally established [in Palestine], to hide wealth in the form of coins, metals or jewels in a jar or box in the ground was a recognized way of securing it, especially in times of crisis; the famous Copper Scroll from Qumran Cave 3 lists the locations of huge caches of precious metals and other buried treasure...” (*The Gospel of Matthew*. NICNT. explanation added. p. 540)

#### V. 44b: The Joy of Acquisition

1. An Act of Honesty?

Rabbinic Law provided that, “If a man finds scattered fruit or money, it belongs to the finder.”

2. An Act of Sacrifice?

## B. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price, vv. 45-46.

### V. 45: A Merchant and Some Fine Pearls

Merchant: ἔμπορος (*emporos*)

Fine pearls: καλοὺς μαργαρίτας (*kalous margaritas*)

1. Their Value in the Greco-Roman World
2. Their Value amongst the People of God (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9; Mt. 7:6; Rev. 21:21)
3. The Reason for their Value

### V. 46: The Sacrifice

**\*Point:** What is the message here conveyed?

#### **\*Where We Live**

1. Who here will miss out on this glorious find?
2. Who here has grown bored of this glorious find?
  - a. What ought we to do? (cf. Rev. 2:5)
  - b. Illustration: The Rookie
3. What is the essence and focus of Christianity?
4. Amazing Grace

Joachim Jeremias wrote, "The key-words are rather 'in his joy' (v. 44; they are not expressly repeated in the case of the merchant, but they apply to him as well). When that great joy, beyond all measure, seizes a man, it carries him away, penetrates his inmost being, subjugates his mind. All else seems valueless compared with that surpassing worth; no price is too high, and the unreserved surrender of what is most valuable becomes a matter of course. The decisive thing in the double parable is not what the two men give up, but the reason for their doing so: the overwhelming experience of the greatness of their discovery. So it is with the Kingdom of God. The effect of the joyful news is overpowering; it fills the heart with gladness, making life's whole aim the consummation of the divine community, and producing the most whole-hearted self-sacrifice." (*Rediscovering the Parables*, p. 158)

Isaac Watts put it this way...

"When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
"my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride."

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
"love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."  
(Red Trinity Hymnal #252)