THE PARABLES OF THE COST OF THE KINGDOM
Matt. 13:44-46

MAIN THOUGHT The Kingdom of Christ is so valuable, we should give up all in order to acquire Jesus.

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE (44).

• In ancient times, people buried their valuables (Matt. 25:18). This was especially true during times of war (see Josephus 4:323). According to Jewish law, treasure discovered outside a man’s home belonged to the finder.
• The man who found it was not looking for it like the merchant (45), but found it by accident. When found, he realized its worth.
• He made plans to acquire the treasure by selling everything he had in order to buy the entire field.

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (45-46).

• Here, a merchant (GK = emporpos – emporium) was looking for fine pearls. They were more costly than diamonds as they involved great risk by free divers going to great depths of the seas.
• During Roman times, pearls were transportable commerce. Cleopatra (69-30 BC) owned the two largest in the world. She drank one and cut the other in half to impress Marc Antony. Julius Caesar invaded Britain for their large fresh water pearls. Wealthy women wore them (1 Tim. 2:9).
• When he found a pearl of great price, the merchant sold all to get it.

THE LESSONS

1. THE KINGDOM IS PRICELESS (Phil 3:7-9).

2. THE KINGDOM IS NOT SUPERFICIALLY VISIBLE (Luke 17:20-21). The enemy has blinded many who do not believe (2 Cor. 4:4). While none seek God (Rom. 3:11), he will gently draw them to himself (Hos. 11:4; John 6:44).

3. THE KINGDOM IS PERSONALLY APPROPRIATED (John 3:7).

4. THE KINGDOM IS THE TRUE SOURCE OF REAL JOY (44). Jesus is the real source of joy (John 15:11; 16:24; Rom. 15:13; Phil 4:4).

5. NOT EVERYONE COMES TO THE KINGDOM BY THE SAME APPROACH. Some find Jesus by accident like the woman at the well (John 4:7), Matthew (9:9), or the man born blind (John 9:1). Others are looking for answers and find Christ like the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:34-35) and the Bereans (Acts 17:11).
