

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

Introduction

1. The Parables of Christ are very interesting and give us insight to Jesus and his teachings to man.
2. The theme of this parable appears to be the "preciousness and value" of the kingdom

Explanation of the Parable

1. **The Details of the Parable...**
 - A. A man finds a treasure hidden in a field.
 - B. He first hides it, then proceeds to buy the field.
 - C. Though he must sell everything he has in order to buy the field, he does so gladly in anticipation of the treasure that will then be rightfully his.
2. **The Meaning of the Parable...**
 - A. Here is the explanation as given by two commentators:
 - 1) "The kingdom of heaven is worth infinitely more than the cost of discipleship, and those who know where the treasure lies joyfully abandon everything else to secure it."
 - 2) "...the kingdom of heaven, the glad recognition of God's rule over heart and life, including salvation for the present and for the future, for soul and ultimately also for the body, the great privilege of being thereby made a blessing to others to the glory of God, all this, is a treasure so inestimably precious that one who obtains it is willing to surrender for it whatever could interfere with having it."

- B. This parable describes the value of the kingdom to the one who accidentally finds it.**
 - 1) Though not purposely looking for it, its value is immediately recognized.**
 - 2) So the kingdom of heaven has been, and will be, for many people!**
 - C. We should grasp its one important lesson: the incalculable preciousness of salvation for those who discover it and obtain possession of it without even looking for it!**
- 3. The Apostle Paul as an Example...**
- A. He discovered the "treasure" unexpectedly.**
 - 1) It was on the road to Damascus, going to persecute Christians**

Acts 9:1-2 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- 2) For he thought it was the right thing to do**
Acts 26:9-11
- 3) But once he met the Lord, and learned the will of God, he did not hesitate to carry it out even at great cost to him.**
Acts 26:19-23

B. His estimation of what he found.

- 1) **Something worth giving up all, if necessary**
Philippians 3:4-11
- 2) **Writing of "the gospel of the glory of Christ", Paul refers to it as a "treasure."**

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- 3) **He writes of the "treasures of wisdom and knowledge" that are found in Christ**

Colossians 2:1-2 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.

- **Clearly Paul considered Christ and His kingdom a "treasure" worth giving up all one had if necessary to obtain.**
- **What is there about the kingdom of Christ that makes it so valuable?**

The Kingdom of Exceeding Value

1. **A Refuge from the Powers of Darkness**

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

A. Outside the kingdom of heaven, one is in the kingdom of Satan.

Ephesians 2:1-3

- 1) Under his influence.
- 2) Trapped in various sins

B. But the kingdom of Christ offers deliverance and refuge.

- 1) **We are set free from the guilt and dominion of sin, so that we can serve God**

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- 2) **God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to bear**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. **A Domain of Righteousness, Peace, and Joy**

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- A. **A righteousness through faith in Christ, in which our sins have been forgiven**
Philippians 3:8-9
- B. **A peace from God, which surpasses all understanding**
Philippians 4:6-7
- C. **An abiding joy in the Lord, no matter the circumstances**
Philippians 4:4; 2:17-18

3. **An Unshakable Kingdom**

Hebrews 12:25-29

- A. **One which shall never be destroyed**

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

- B. **Therefore, a truly everlasting kingdom**
2 Peter 1:10-11

4. Destined for Eternal Glory**1 Corinthians 15:21-26**

- A. Presented by Christ to God at His second coming, those who are truly "sons of the kingdom" will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"**

Matthew 13:41-43 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- B. From that time forward, those in the kingdom will experience the ultimate fellowship in the presence of God**
Revelation 21:1-5, 9-12, 22-27

Conclusion

1. In light of both the present and future blessings found in the kingdom of heaven, perhaps we can appreciate why many consider the kingdom one of exceeding value
 - A. Even when not actively looking for it, but stumbling across it...
 - B. The value is recognized immediately by some, willing to pay whatever price necessary
2. What is the value of the kingdom? I wish we could ask...
 - **Stephen**, the first Christian martyr
(Acts 7)
 - **The early Christians**, who experienced persecution
(Acts 8:1-4)
 - **The apostle Paul**, who suffered so much for the kingdom
(2 Timothy 3:10-11; 4:6-8, 16-18)
 - **Our loved ones who died in Christ**
(Revelation 7:9-17)
 - **Our Lord Jesus**, who gave up all to make it possible
(Philippians 2:5-8)
 - 1) I am confident that with one voice they would say, "It is worth it all!"
3. How about all of us? Are we willing to pay the full price to obtain the "treasure" of the kingdom?
 - A. **The price of repentance?** (Acts 3:19; 17:30-31)
 - B. **The price of complete submission to the will of Christ?**
(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38)
 - C. **The price of putting the kingdom first in our lives?**
(Matthew 6:33)
4. Our response to the gospel, and how we live our lives as Christians, demonstrate our true estimation of the "treasure" of the kingdom of heaven!

