

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
NOVEMBER 27, 2019
MATTHEW 13:44-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. Parable (parabole): Para – “by the side”; Ballo – “to throw” Literally, to throw by the side.
 - a) **LUKE 8.18:** *“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”*
 - b) In principle, when you put a skill to use, it gets better. If you neglect a skill, it gets worse.
 - c) The disciples were interested in learning, but the scribes and Pharisees did not seek truth believing they already possessed it.
 - d) This is in a context where Jesus was speaking in parables. (Matt. 13.10-13)
2. **MATTHEW 13.11:** *“the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”*
 - a) The prophets, righteous, and even angels desired to know. (Matt. 13.16,17; 1 Pet. 1.10-12)
 - b) The mysteries have been revealed through Scripture. (Eph. 3.3-5; 2 Pet. 1.3)
3. Consider the parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price. [Read Matt. 13.44-46]

I. THE VALUE OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The parable of the hidden treasure. (Matt. 13.44)
 1. There is a discovery. (Matt. 13.44)
 - a) *“Treasure”* What was the value of this treasure? (cf. Josh. 7.21)
 - b) *“Hidden”* describes an action taken in the past and remains in effect.
 - c) *“In a field”* Possibly a servant working for the owner who was unaware.
 - d) *“Which a man found and hid”* Was he looking for it?
 2. There is a determination. (Matt. 13.44)
- B. The parable of the pearl of great price. (Matt. 13.45,46)
 1. There is a discovery. (Matt. 13.45)
 - a) *“Seeking”* is in a verb form indicating continued action.
 - b) *“Beautiful pearls”* A pearl is formed when a grain of sand makes its way in the shell of a mollusk and with the help of secretion crystalizes.
 - c) Unlike cultured pearls, in ancient times, divers would plunge into the sea farm for mollusks in search for pearls. The chance is 1 in 10,000.
 2. There is a determination. (Matt. 13.46)

II. APPLICATIONS TO THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The kingdom of heaven must be sought out.
 1. Both the servant and the merchant sought out the treasure. (Matt. 13.44,45)
 2. God wants us to seek Him. (Acts 14.14-17; 17.26,27; Rom. 1.18ff)
 3. **MATTHEW 6.33:** *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”*
 4. Why would we seek it out? Because of its value. (Matt. 16.26)
- B. Finding the kingdom of heaven is both a great joy and a great challenge.
 1. The servant and merchant were willing to give up everything to obtain it.
 2. Many are not willing to give their all. (cf. Matt. 13.22; Mark 4.18,19; Luke 8.14)
 3. Are you willing to give up all to follow Jesus?
 - a) The rich young ruler. (Matt. 19.21-26)
 - b) **LUKE 9.23:** *“If anyone desires to come after Me...”* (cf. Luke 14.26)
 - c) Christ is to be your life. (Phil. 1.21; Col. 3.4)