

The Parables of the Treasures and the Pearl

Matt. 13:44-45

Introduction:

- A. Jesus sometimes taught a series of parables to illustrate same point.
 - 1. Mustard seed - Leaven. (vs. 31-33).
 - 2. Lost Sheep - Lost Coin - Lost Son. (Lk. 15).
 - 3. Treasure - Pearl. (Text).
- B. Jesus illustrates value of Kingdom.
 - 1. To be had at all cost.
 - 2. Requires and is worthy of all we have.
- C. Jesus knew that our commitment to kingdom depended on value placed on it.
 - 1. Some think like "term insurance" - most protection with least cost.
 - 2. Some think of it as fire escape or life jacket - not boat itself.
- D. These men would naturally consider some factors in their evaluation:

Discussion:

I. Expert Appraisal.

- A. Appraisal of Jesus.
 - 1. The Parables.
 - 2. The Purchase. (Acts 20:28).
- B. Appraisal of holy men of old. (Matt. 13:11,16,17).
- C. Appraisal of early Christians.
 - 1. Paul. (Col. 1:24).
 - 2. John (Rev. 1:9).
 - 3. Stephen. (Acts 7).

II. It's Rareness.

- A. ONE pearl of great price.
- B. ONE church of God. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20).

III. It's Personal Benefit.

- A. In kingdom, each has light, etc. (Col. 1:12-14).
- B. In kingdom, each has name in heaven. (Heb. 12:22,23,38).

IV. It's Relative Value.

- A. Pearl and Treasure worth more than all men had.
- B. Kingdom worth more than all else. (Matt. 6:33).
 - 1. Family & possessions. (Matt. 10:34-37).
 - 2. Pleasure of sin. (Heb. 11:24-26).
 - 3. Innocent Pleasures. (1 Tim. 4:8).
 - 4. Life itself. (Rev. 2:10; 1 John 3:16; Luke 14:33).

V. It's Cost of Maintaining. (cf. Luke 14).

- A. Such treasure have to be guarded and maintained.
- B. Must maintain kingdom:
 - 1. Personal purity. (1 Tim. 4:16; 5:22).
 - 2. Exhorting one another. (Heb. 3:13).
 - 3. Elders watching. (Acts 20:31).
 - 4. Preachers preaching. (Acts 20)
- C. Do benefits outweigh the cost?

Conclusion:

- A. How much is kingdom worth to you?
- B. How much are you willing to pay?