

“The Treasure”

Matthew 13:44-52

Scripture Ref: 2 Cor 5:21; Rev 5:1-7; Rom 5:12-14; 1 Cor 15:49; Ez 18:23, 32; John 3:16-17

- 1. Have you ever noticed that one of the greatest needs that a person has is to be valued? To be needed, even treasured, by someone?**
 - a. Some people will go to almost any length to prove that they are valuable.**
 - b. And the sad fact is, that need is almost never fully met. No matter how much we feel valued by someone; at some point we're always let down.**
- 2. So, why would we be designed with this ‘need’ that seems to go unfulfilled? It almost seems cruel.**
 - a. But in reality, its not cruel – it's destiny.**
 - b. I believe God placed that great need to be valued into our very soul to draw us to the only source where that need can be met – to Him!**

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Dragnet

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

- 3. Again we are given three parables, spoken in quick succession.**
 - a. Again, I believe we need to view these parables not as separate entities, but as single point, being demonstrated in three different ways.**
 - b. Remember that Jesus is describing the Kingdom of God, trying to help our finite human brain grasp the concept of something that is completely beyond the scope of our reality.**

- c. Remember the example of the diamond – a single stone, yet it has multiple facets – each one sparkling with a different brilliant color.**

44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

- 4. Hidden Treasure – With the recent economic downturn, there has been a resurgence of prospecting for gold in the California gold rush area –**
 - a. With gold approaching \$1000 an ounce, people are flocking to the rivers and streams – ‘there’s gold in them thar hills!’**
 - b. People love the idea of finding hidden treasure – it’s exciting, and if you find it, you’re set for life!**
- 5. Now you might have read that this parable explains how a person is searching for something, and they find God, and then they go and sell all to come into the kingdom.**
 - a. But really, which of us when we got saved went and sold all we had? None!**
 - b. And to you really have to purchase your way into the kingdom? What about people that are poor – can they get in?**
- 6. No I believe this parable shows us something different – remember the parable of the sower? What was the field? It was the world.**
 - a. And in the “transaction” of salvation, who was it that paid a price? It was Jesus.**

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- 7. Now some of might look at this and think “there is no way that God is the merchant, because I am NOT a beautiful pearl!” (of course, some of you might think you ARE beautiful pearls, and we’ll teach about humility later!)**
 - a. But think about it – how does a pearl start out? It’s a piece of material that gets lodged in the oyster, it’s an irritation!**
 - b. But the oyster doesn’t have fingers to get it out, so instead the oyster secretes a substance called nacre which covers the irritation.**
 - c. And layer upon layer the substance builds, until you have a beautiful pearl!**
- 8. And... really that sort of describes you and I! We’re always messing up, causing problems and irritation.**

- a. Yet in spite of our irritating nature, God loves us and He wraps us in His beautiful righteousness

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- 9. Now put all this together – Look out at our world today and what do you see? Problems, crisis, suffering – stuff that some thing “how could God allow all of this?”
 - a. We it wasn't God's perfect plan – God created this earth as a perfect paradise for a man that was hand-crafted by God, with the very Spirit of God breathed into him.
 - b. Adam had it all – but Adam gave it all away – the moment that Adam sinned against God, he became a servant of the enemy (remember Matthew 6 – you cannot serve two masters, you either serve God, or the enemy).
 - c. Adam handed over the title, deed, and dominion of the planet to Satan. Thus we live in a fallen world – a world filled with death, disease, suffering, crisis.
 - d. A world that is getting dirtier and dirtier – physically and morally.
 - e. When you think about it, it's a depressing thing!
 - f. So...what can we do? What will happen? Will the world remain in Satan's grip forever? The answer is given in Revelation chapter 5.

Rev 5:1-7

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

- 10. Whats written on the scroll? I believe it is the title to earth.
 - a. In OT times, if a person lost property, the deed would be scrolled and sealed, and on the outside would be written the requirements for the return of the property to the owner.
 - b. If the owner could fulfill the requirements in seven years, the property would be returned – or redeemed.
- 11. So we are being given a picture of something that needs to be redeemed, and heaven is looking for someone worthy to redeem it.
 - a. And no worthy person can be found, and so John is really upset.

- b. Just like we might look out at the world, all that is happening, where we are headed, and the natural response to anyone who loves God and righteousness would be great sadness – “who can fix this!?”**

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

- 12. Check it out – it is one of the most dramatic scenes I can think of – the world is falling apart, sin and death are wreaking havoc,
 - a. One might wonder – “will it never end? Will there ever be peace, and goodness, restoration?**
 - b. ...and so the question is asked “Who is worthy to redeem this suffering place? Who can fix this mess?”**
 - c. ...and no one is found! You can feel the heaviness of the moment.**
 - d. And then – behold – there stands the Lamb – Our Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - e. And guess what – He is worthy to take the scroll and redeem the earth and all that is in it.**
 - f. And the rest of chapter 5 is a glorious outpouring of praise and honor to the one who is worthy!**
 - g. Is there a connection here?****
- 13. Remember the meaning of the parable – the field is the world. The man sowing the seed, finding the treasure is Jesus Christ.
 - a. The first Adam succumbed to temptation, and fell, and handed the world over to Satan. The first Adam died, and so did all who came after him****

Rom 5:12-14

*12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned --
13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

- b. The last Adam resisted temptation, never sinned, experienced victory over death, and thus redeemed humanity from Satan**

1 Cor 15:49 "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

c. The price for the world, for all humanity, was not money – it was death.

14. Why did He do it? Is God interested in a planet?

- a. No, God can create billions of worlds – with one word He can speak into existence galaxies
- b. God is interested in YOU – whom He created.
- c. God considers you a treasure, an incredibly valuable pearl
- d. And God gave all that He had – His very life – to redeem you from the power of sin and the curse of death

15. But wait, now here is that whole “separate the good from the bad” thing – the whole “furnace of fire” thing -

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

16. Remember the movie Titanic? Remember the part where the survivor takes the diamond, and tosses it back into the sea?

- a. I mean – the whole point of finding her, taking her out there, the whole point of the expedition was finding that treasure – and it was on the ship the whole time – and then she tosses it back into the sea!
- b. What a waste of that treasure! What a terrible thing for a valuable treasure to sit in the bottom of the ocean

17. Think about this – what is the most treasured thing in your life? Maybe you have children – think of one of them –

- a. You are in the underworld – rivers of lava – and your child is on an outcropping – stranded – can't get to you
- b. And you have a way out – a path out to life –
- c. And you create a bridge to your child – “here, walk across this bridge – you just have to trust me!”
- d. And your child – who you birthed – who you treasure – looks at you and says ‘I am going to go my own way – I don't believe you – I don't trust you’
- e. And they turn away – down another path – you hear the screams as they hit the lava...

18. What a terrible scenario – that is how I believe God feels each time a person rejects His bridge to life – His Son Jesus Christ.

a. God does not take pleasure in an evil person being punished...

Ezek 18:23, 32

23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live? ...32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

19. See- you are God's treasure – His beautiful workmanship – A prize above all others that He has created.

51 Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

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