

**>>>>>> Matthew – Lesson 33 <<<<<<<**

- 1) As you may recall from last time, Jesus was teaching to a large crowd in parables,
- 2) The disciples ask him why he was using parables and after answering that question he explained the parable of the sower to them.
- 3) He then continues to teach the crowd using parables.
- 4) They then enter a house where the disciples ask for an explanation of the parable of the wheat and weeds which is where we finished last time.
- 5) Now, Jesus continues with his kingdom parables – this time exclusively to the disciples ...

**Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV)**

**The Parable of the Hidden Treasure**

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value**

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- 6) Like the parables of the mustard seed and leaven, these two parables look at the kingdom in the same way but from two different perspectives.
  - a) In both of these, Jesus shows the kingdom as something that is priceless.
  - b) The perspective of the first is that the man finds the treasure almost by accident.
    - i) One source indicated that he “stumbled upon it.” (Serendipity)
  - c) In the second, the perspective is that the merchant is searching for the treasure and finds it.
  - d) In both cases, the value is so great that the person is willing to give up everything to obtain the treasure because it is more valuable than their “everything.”
- 7) In both perspectives, there are two important factors.
  - a) First is that the person must realize the true value of the treasure or the pearl.
  - b) And second, he must be willing to give up everything for it.
- 8) When we look at other folks like the rich young ruler, we can see a recognition of the value but there is a lack of the commitment of everything to obtain that value.
  - a) In their opinion, the value of what they possess now outweighs the value of the kingdom that they have found.
- 9) It occurred to me as I thought about this that the problem with the rich young ruler and for that matter anyone else who “walks away sad” – maybe a combination of both value understanding and the will to give up everything.
  - a) Jesus presented the kingdom to him as “come follow me,” the rich young ruler was thinking eternal life.
    - i) The eternal life aspect meant he would stay as things were and only have to keep whatever commands Jesus would say he had to keep to inherit that eternal life.
  - b) The only way I will be willing to give up what I have for the kingdom is to come to a true understanding of what the kingdom is and a true belief in that understanding as something of greater value than what I have.

- c) If the man finding the treasure or the merchant looking for the pearl of great value did not understand the value of what they found and believe in their own evaluation, they would not be willing to give up all they had for it.

**In view of all that, what are some things you can think of that speak to how we share the kingdom (gospel) with others?**

- d) First, at the risk of sounding crass we need to be good salespeople – we must know our product.
    - i) When we speak to people about the kingdom, we must present it so there is a clear understanding of what its value is.
    - ii) In order to do that, it might help for us to evaluate our own ideas of what we are willing to give up should it be required.
    - iii) In other words, what is the value of the kingdom to us?
    - iv) If we do not have a clear view of that in our hearts and minds, we might not be able to convince others of its value.
- 1) Ok, let's look at the final kingdom parable in this series ...

**Matthew 13:47–50 (ESV)**

**The Parable of the Net**

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- 2) While the parable of the wheat and weeds highlighted the length of time during which good and evil people must coexist before the judgment, this parable focuses on that final judgment.
  - a) As the net catches all kinds of fish, the gospel message will go out to all kinds of people.
  - b) At the end of the age, the angels will “sort the fish,” separating evil people from righteous.
  - c) Like the wheat that will be gathered and burned, the bad fish will be thrown into the furnace of fire.<sup>37</sup>
- 3) Perhaps to say this a little differently, in a perfect world, the kingdom (church) would never have anyone in it that was not a true and sincere believer.
  - a) In the judgement, this will be sorted out and unfortunately, not everyone who sits in a pew every Sunday morning will make it.

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<sup>37</sup> Bruce B. Barton, Matthew, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996), 275.