

## The Kingdom Parables

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

**Matthew 13:44-46**

Have you ever played the game where you can only take three things from your home due to a fire or earthquake? What would you choose? What things are most valuable to you? (Of course we cannot take any of these to heaven) These parables present the value of the gospel message.

Review -Two parables about **planting** - Soils and Weeds

Two parables about **growth** - mustard seed and yeast

Now two about **value**

#### I. The Parables

##### A. Treasure - Natural details -

Treasure hidden in a field - not uncommon -  
sometimes lost when the owner died

Man could be tenet farmer working the land or just a traveler  
crossing the land

From joy sold all he had and bought the land

##### B. Pearl - Natural details

Person was a merchant not a storeowner - traveled the world  
seeking the best products - Pearls had great value

Sold all he had and purchased it

##### C. Similarities

Something valuable was discovered - it was somewhat hidden

Both sold all (everything) to purchase the treasured item

Both bought it at this price willfully and with joy

Their actions revealed who much they valued the treasure

#### II. Possible Interpretations

##### A. Field is the world and the treasure is Israel

The man is Christ who gave all to be their God

##### Pearl is the church

Sought by Christ and bought with great price

##### B. The treasure and the pearl = salvation message of the gospel

Possible if we seek the one main truth

The man and the merchant then become those who find

salvation One by "accident" and one after a long search

Both were willing to give up all to possess this treasure

## III. The Prize and the Price

### A. Salvation is more valuable than anything

*2 Corinthians 4:7 Colossians 2:2-3*

#### 1. It is more precious than gold or diamonds --- why

(What makes something valuable - 4 Tests

- Rarity - like a masterpiece painted by a famous painter
- Verdict of a competent authority - a diamond not glass
- Durability - how long will it last
- Adaptation -that which meets the need

Gold is not valuable to a starving man - Midas golden touch

#### 2. Salvation meets all these criteria to the ultimate

- There is only one way - Jesus Christ - to heaven
- God Himself and the Holy Spirit attest to the truth
- It is not for time alone but for all eternity
- It meets not some of our needs but rather all of them

#### 3. It is freely given but the most costly of gifts

### B. We "find" Salvation in various ways

- Some "find" Christ by "accident"

But there are no accidents

- Some intentionally seek until they "find" Salvation

*Matthew 7:7 Jeremiah 29:11-13*

What is **not** taught in these parables.

- That finding salvation is up to us - we are sought by God
- That we can somehow pay for our salvation - it is a free gift
- Salvation is not about what we give up but about the Treasure

What do they teach?

- Salvation is worth more than all we possess

It is costly to God -

- Salvation brings joy unspeakable *1 Peter 1:8*
- Salvation is "found" only by those who are willing to surrender all  
*Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?*
- Our conduct shows our faith or lack of faith

*Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God— this is your true and proper worship.*

*Are you seeking? - The Treasure is to be found*

*Are you a believer? - Are you experiencing the joy?*