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# **The Kingdom Parable**

of the

# **Treasure.**

(2013)

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## The Kingdom Parable of the Treasure.

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### Topics.

- The Kingdom of heaven.
- The man who purchased the field.
- The treasure hidden in the field.
- The man hides the treasure.
- The man has great joy in finding the treasure.
- The man sells everything to obtain the treasure.
- The price of the field.

Matthew 13:44 ----- 44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up (hides in the KJV). Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

How amazing is this, this parable only has thirty-seven words. Matthew is the only one that records this parable there is no record of it in the books of Mark, Luke or John. The title in this verse, the Kingdom of Heaven does not mean that the Kingdom is in heaven. The following Scriptures are just a few of the many that show that the Kingdom of Heaven is the same as the Kingdom of God.

Matthew wrote: -

- Jesus answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *kingdom of heaven*, but to them it has not been given" (Matt. 13:11).

Mark wrote: -

- Jesus said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the *kingdom of God*, but for those outside everything is in parables" (Mark 4:11).

Luke wrote: -

- Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *kingdom of God*, but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand" (Luke 8:10).

Matthew wrote: -

- Jesus told them another parable. "The *kingdom of heaven* is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened" (Matt. 13:33).

Luke wrote: -

- Jesus said, "Whereunto shall I liken the *kingdom of God*? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Luke 13:20-21).

These verses clearly show that the Kingdom of heaven refers to God's present Kingdom on earth.

This parable has been interpreted in many various ways throughout history so in this study we will focus on the two most common interpretations since both of them contain certain glorious truths that not only glorify the Lord, but can encourage us all in the faith.

## **The First Interpretation.**

The parable is about Christ being the treasure hidden in the field who a sinner after finding surrenders all they have to obtain the Lord and eternal life. Those who hold to this idea say that the Kingdom of Heaven refers to the Good News of the Gospel, the new dispensation of grace and the offer of eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is the salvation provided by the Gospel. The idea here is that salvation is likened to a rich mine of gold of inestimable worth in which the veins of gold run in all directions and therefore the entire field must be dug up.

The treasure is so gloriously valuable that the location of it is kept secret in the heart so that it might not be taken away while the preciousness of it is examined deeply and the cost of purchasing the treasure is pondered upon. Once the heart and mind are convinced of the vast richness of this treasure and that it will make the owner of it eternally happy the person who found it is not only willing to abandon all that is offensive to God and relinquish all hope of salvation through their own righteousness to purchase the field, but are also prepared to give up all other happiness to obtain it.

**Those who hold to this this interpretation say that Jesus is teaching the following two things: -**

1. That the salvation of God is a great treasure and that the Gospel of the Kingdom that leads to eternal salvation should not only be diligently and carefully searched for in the Scriptures, but also deeply meditated and pondered upon in the secret of the heart and mind until its abundant worth and excellence is fully understood and valued above all the riches in the world.
2. That we should be fully convinced in our hearts and minds that there is no wealth great enough in this world that we can purchase salvation by and that no price is accepted for it but faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself over to a brutal, bloody and cruel death not for himself, but that salvation to eternal life could be ours. Therefore we should be fully prepared to part with whatever would hinder us from obtaining such a precious and eternal treasure so that we could make it our own.

**NOTE:** selling all that we have is not to be interpreted literally, but figuratively, it denotes the heartfelt willingness of such people who are led into the glory, fullness and excellency of God and the immense treasure of the Gospel of the Kingdom that shows the way to God and eternal life. It means that should a person be in a position or situation whereby they are forced to choose between Christ or a family member, a friend or their ambition and such like things they are willing to lay aside whoever and whatever would prevent them from accepting Christ and following him.

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## **The Seconded Interpretation.**

As glorious as the above interpretation is the following interpretation harmonises far better with the parable, but before we proceed to look at its majestic beauty it should be mentioned that since the previous interpretation is not Scripturally wrong and contains truths that we can all learn from and be encouraged by no brother or sister in Christ should argue or divide simply because others have a different view of what Jesus is teaching in this parable.

The previous interpretation of the parable of the treasure which makes the buyer of the field to be a sinner, who is seeking Christ, is flawed in that: -

- Jesus in verse thirty-eight tells us that the field is the world.
- The seeking sinner does not buy, but forsakes, the world to win Christ.
- The sinner has nothing of any worth to sell.
- The sinner who finds Christ does not hide him again.

- Once a sinner finds Christ they do not hide him again. No truly born again believer who finds the love and grace of God in Christ desires or even wants to hide and conceal the Lord from others or keep what they have found secret.

For these reasons the following interpretation harmonises with the parable in a far more glorious and majestic manner as the following will show.

**The Kingdom of Heaven:** refers to the present spiritual Kingdom of God established by faith in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ which is unseen to the unbelieving world. In this context it refers to the true church of God and not the visible church that the secular world sees with its institutions, government's and its architectural cathedrals with their beautiful stain glass windows or the multimillion dollar church buildings, but the spiritual Kingdom that dwells within the heart and mind of those devoted to Christ.

Certainly it is true many of those who make up the true church of God are fellowshipping and worshipping in these buildings and doing a lot of good in the world for the Lord, but because the visible church as the parable of the wheat and weeds and the parable of the fishermen and the net teach is made up of good and bad servants, wise and foolish servants the true church worldwide is in the most part generally hidden to the world since the inner spiritual secrets and mysteries of God cannot be discerned by spiritually blind eyes nor can we see the workings of God in the heart of another.

**The man who purchased the field:** is a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ we know this because in the earlier parables the man sowing seed in the field was identified by Jesus as being himself, the Son of Man (Matt. 13:37). It is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the buyer at the awful cost of his blood.

- Peter wrote; "You were ransomed not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

It is Christ who buys the field (a symbol of the world) for the sake of the treasure contained within it.

- Jesus himself said; "God so loved the WORLD that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Bible pictures the world as a vast sea of men and woman in their natural state swimming like fish in its waters and pictures those who share the glorious good news of the Gospel and God's grace as fishermen in a boat casting a net into the deep water of this sea to catch something out of it for God's eternal majestic and royal glory, the God who has the sovereignty over the sea, but the fishermen's net draws both toxic and nontoxic fish into the boat and continues to do so until the Lord returns and the angels separate the good from the bad out of the Lord's Kingdom (Matt 13:47-49).

**The treasure hidden in the field:** in this context the treasure is a symbol of those who are devoted by faith to the Lord Jesus Christ. The idea is that the true church is the treasure Christ found hidden in the field and then gave his all to acquire it. This concept beautifully harmonizes with the following words of Paul: -

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he *chose us in him before the foundation of the world* that we should be holy and blameless before him (Ephesians 1:3-7).

God in His eternal mind purposed from the beginning of time and before the foundations of the world His plan of salvation as He in His foreknowledge looked down through the corridors of time to the end of the age and sees that within fallen humanity there is hidden faithful remnant who would from their own free will choose from the heart to worship and follow him. This spiritual invisible Kingdom is the treasure hidden in the field it is so valuable to the Lord that he not only gave himself up for, but also obtained it with his own blood (Col. 3:19) (Acts 20:28). No faithful brother or sister in Christ is able to fully reveal the Kingdom of God that by

faith dwells within their heart and mind. The world cannot see the heavenly and spiritual richness of the Kingdom of God that dwells within each believer who knows and experiences the love of Christ and the grace of God within.

John in the following verses makes a similar statement: -

- Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the *world does not know us* because it did not know Him (1 John 3:1).

**The treasure:** can represent both the true converted believer and the hidden faithful church as the special object of the Lord's desires and of his sacrifice since we do know that Christ not only sold all that he had for our salvation, but likewise also loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephes. 5:25) and obtained it with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

**The field:** Jesus earlier in this chapter said that the field is the world (Matt. 13:38) meaning the globe on which we live and dwell clearly showing that the field in the context of this parable is the world in which the present faithful and spiritual church is hidden.

### **The Man Hides the Treasure.**

The true church is hidden in the following two ways: -

1. It spiritually exists at this present time by faith and love in the hearts and minds of those who are devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus says, "I know my sheep" (John 10:27) only he can perceive the true motives and intents of the heart and mind of those who confess to believe in him.
2. Those who deny the Lord focus on the weeds and the foolish servants in the church (i.e., the prideful and hypocritical) so the multitudes of humble and good servants remain hidden to the secular world. This is because the global spotlight of the secular media is always upon the corrupt servants and not the good as is the focus of those who are hostile to the Lord and in this manner the true church generally remains hidden to the secular world because the global worldly floodlight is on what is wrong and not upon all that is good.

**The man has great joy in finding the treasure:** Jesus said; "When the good shepherd finds a lost sheep he lays it upon his shoulders and when he gets it to safety not only does he rejoice, but there is also great joy in the presence of the angels of God in heaven. (Luke 15:1-7) (Luke 15:10) and when a prodigal brother or sister returns to their heavenly Father there is great rejoicing (Luke 15:11-32). There is no-doubt that Jesus as he ministered the Good News of the Gospel and found men and women who were willing not only to follow him, but lay their lives down for him was overwhelmed with heartfelt joy. Men and woman seeking God with an honest heart is the treasure the man in this parable found.

The author of Hebrews tells us that: -

- Jesus, looking toward the JOY that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 12:2).

Christ was so overjoyed at the response he received from those who accepted him he went and laid his life down for the entire world so that whoever seeks after God would find Him by faith apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions and apart from relying on any human priest.

**The man sells everything to obtain the treasure:** the man who sold everything and brought the field is the Lord Jesus Christ. The idea is that he sells everything to buy the field, but not so much for the field itself, but for the treasure that is hidden in it.

- Jesus said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

There is no higher price God the Father could pay than the sacrifice of His most beloved Son and there is no higher price Jesus could pay to redeem us than to lay down his life to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that we might have eternal life in everlasting glory.

### **The Price of the Field.**

The price of the field was the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: -

- You shall be redeemed without money (Isaiah 52:3).

And in another prophecy concerning the Lord Isaiah said: -

- Christ was despised, oppressed and rejected a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief wounded for our transgressions, he was lead like a lamb to the slaughter for the iniquities of us all so that by his suffering and death we might be saved to eternal life. (Isaiah 53:1-12)

This is the price the man paid to purchase the field so he could obtain the treasure hidden in it.

**NOTE:** some might wonder, "Why does the man buy the field and not just the treasure?" The picture is that the treasure is hidden in the field it does not say in one particular spot or place but in the field. Much like the veins of a silver and gold mine are not in one central location, but spread throughout a vast area of land. Because of this investors who know its value purchase the entire region so they can obtain all the silver and gold in the area and not just at its beginnings.

Likewise the treasure Christ is seeking for his eternal Kingdom is spread throughout all the nations of the world; thus the world was purchased not so much for its own sake, but because of the treasure it contained. It is the treasure that is the object of Christ's affection and not the field. Jesus in order to possess his faithful Bride died for the entire world.

### **Jesus in this parable shines a brilliant spotlight on the following truths: -**

- Christ has great love and joy toward those that worship and chose to faithfully follow him.
- Every brother and sister in Christ who knows the love and grace of God and believes in the majestic promises of God and the glorious prophesies of the prophets is given a victorious faith in their heart and mind of the hidden and mysterious workings of God as they live in this fallen and sinful world.
- The Kingdom of God that is established by faith and love in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ is the true church hidden in this world to the eyes of those who deny God.
- Every truly born again Christian has a supernatural life dwelling within their heart and mind, a life that cannot be seen by the eyes of an unbelieving world.

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