

HEAVEN

Lesson #6: *What Did Jesus Teach About Heaven?*

Introduction: For the most part, any time Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven His concern was twofold:

- ① How a person assures himself or herself of getting into heaven.
- ② Heaven has already begun and believers are called to live in the light of that reality.

Two simple parables contain some of the most important teaching Jesus ever offered regarding the kingdom of heaven. They are recorded in Matthew 13:44-46.

Both parables teach a single truth that is spiritual:

Everything this world deems worthwhile or important counts as sheer loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ and being part of His kingdom.

This one spiritual truth summarizes several underlying teachings about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus wove into these parables.

- ① The kingdom of heaven is priceless in value.

Peter informs you that the treasure is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4).

Everything of eternal value is encompassed in the treasure of this kingdom.

- ② The kingdom of heaven is not outwardly visible.

Spiritual realities cannot be naturally perceived and are therefore not appreciated by unregenerate humanity: “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are **spiritually discerned**” (1 Cor. 2:14).

People are quite simply blind to the riches of the kingdom of

God: “...the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Cor. 4:4).

- ③ The kingdom of heaven is individually claimed.

You are not a citizen of heaven until you have personally been brought into union with Christ by the Spirit of God, through repentance and faith.

- ④ The kingdom of heaven is the true source of real joy.

It was “for joy” the man sold everything he owned in order to purchase the field in which he covered the treasure.

It seems Jesus is acknowledging the basic desire that all human beings possess – to be happy. (See: John 5:11, 16:24.)

Rom. 14:17 - “...the kingdom of god is righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.”

Joy is the natural result of appropriating the treasure of the kingdom of heaven for yourself.

- ⑤ The kingdom of heaven is approached by “stumblers” and “seekers.”

In the first parable, a man stumbles across the treasure. In the second parable, the merchant seeks the pearl, knowing exactly for what he is looking.

God deals with all people as individuals, ordering the steps of each one in accord with His plan.

- ⑥ The kingdom of heaven requires a saving faith that has a high cost.

Saving faith is a total surrender to the person and work of the Savior.

Saving faith is an exchange of all you are for all Christ is.

Conclusion: What is more valuable to you than knowing Christ and being a part of His kingdom? Are you assured of heaven? Have you appropriated the treasure of heaven for yourself?