

Jesus used treasures to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew 13:44-46, the parable of the man who found the hidden treasure and the parable of the man who found the pearl of great price are different parables, but both speak of the treasure of the Gospel.

1 The Nature of the Treasure

First, a treasure by nature is valuable. In the first parable, a man found treasure in a field: either he found a mine of treasure, or he found treasure hidden in the field. In both cases, treasure is that which has great value. In the second parable, a man was seeking goodly pearls, and he found “*one pearl of great price*” (Matt 13:46), i.e. one having great honour or value. The harvesting of pearls is risky as it requires diving into the depths of oceans, thus making the pearls very expensive.

The treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price represent the Gospel and its infinite value. There is nothing we can do ever to obtain salvation, it can only be worked out by Christ. It is valuable because it brings us priceless reconciliation with God and is that which makes a sinner a saint.

Second, we see that the treasure is hidden. The man found treasure hidden in a field which looked unassuming and ordinary and the treasure is not easily seen. Likewise with the Gospel, many do not see the value of the Gospel and simply walk by, dismissing it and thinking it is no different from any other religion. Others have not yet heard of the Gospel, like the man who had not found the goodly pearl. So, the Gospel and its truth are hidden from them.

In both cases, unbelievers fail to see the true, eternal value of the Gospel. Though the treasure is hidden, it is available to all. The field was there for all, and the pearl of great price was on the market. They were not kept away for a select few only. The Gospel is freely available, and is offered to all.

Finally, the treasure is a singular treasure: “a” field with hidden treasure, and “a” pearl of great price. There is only one Gospel, one way of salvation. Is Jesus all the world to you? Or is there something you prize above Him? If you value the Gospel, you will live in light of its value.

2 Encountering the Treasure

In the first parable, the man chanced upon the treasure. He was not out searching for treasures intentionally, but rather unexpectedly came upon it. This is one way that some come to hear the Gospel and to receive Christ. In God’s sovereignty, He meets sinners with the Gospel and convicts them of their sins.

In the second parable, the man was actively seeking for goodly pearls. Thus, there are those who may be seeking for answers to the meaning of life, and they find the answers in the Gospel.

Both men saw the value of the treasure. They both responded with joy, and sold all that they had in order to buy the treasure. Why? Because they saw that the treasure was far more valuable than all that they had.

To believe in Christ is to surrender every part of our life, ambitions and possessions to the Lord and His will, understanding that our relationship with God is far more valuable than anything on this earth. May we truly possess the Gospel, and live in light of its value.

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