

Lesson 3-7 Treasure and the Pearl

1. Do you enjoy a love story, a story where both individuals are willing to give their lives for each other? Our relationship with God is this kind of love story. There are several parables that reveal how God looks at our relationship. Please read and enjoy these revealing parables:

Parable 1

Matthew 13:44 "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.(ESV)

Parable 2

Matthew 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,
Matthew 13:46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.(ESV)

2. These parables are together and quite similar. Do you think it is necessary to have both, wouldn't one be enough?

3. Before we analyze these parables, who do you think are represented by the following in parable 1:(Please don't read ahead, it will detract from your learning)

the treasure_____

the field_____

a man_____

all that he has_____

4. Now let's try parable 2:

the merchant_____

fine pearls_____

one pearl of great value_____

all that he had_____

5. In parable 1, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a treasure hidden in a field. The kingdom of heaven is not compared to a treasure nor to a field, but a treasure hidden in a field. So, if we can find out what the "treasure" is and what the "field" is, we can unlock the secret of this parable and understand what the kingdom of heaven is. The kingdom of heaven is mentioned many times in the Bible and this is an opportunity to understand it from God's point of view. If you found a treasure in a field, what would you do?

6. would you steal the treasure without buying the field?

7. Please read the following scripture:

Colossians 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,
Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

8. From the above scriptures, what, or more accurately, who is the field?

9. what is the treasure?

10. Please read the following:

Mark 10:17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Mark 10:19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'

Mark 10:20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."

Mark 10:21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Mark 10:22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

11. From the above scriptures, who was the "man" (parable 1)?

12. what was "all that he had?"

13. Is there anything you have that you are not willing to give up in order to "inherit the kingdom of God?"

Note: This does not mean that you should go and sell everything you have and leave everyone you know. It means that you are willing to let God take control of your life no matter what.

Summary of Parable 1:

the treasure [Grace and Truth](#)

the field [Jesus](#)

a man [You](#)

all that he has [Everything you have: money, power, will, etc.](#)

14. Now we will go to the second parable: a merchant seeking precious pearls. It appears that "the merchant" knows his business and he can judge the value of pearls. In other words, he chooses his pearls carefully and is prepared to pay for them. Please read the following:

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and (Jesus)

1 Corinthians 6:20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

15. So we see that the merchant is most probably Jesus. He chooses us. There are several parables we will study later that tell us how to be chosen. Do you think you have value to Jesus? If so why?

16. In parable 2, it says that the merchant, when he found a pearl of great value, he sold all that he had and bought the pearl. If we are correct in concluding that Jesus is the pearl merchant, what could it possibly mean that he "sold all that he had" to purchase us?

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Corinthians 6:20 because you were bought for a price. Therefore, glorify God with your bodies.

17. The summary of parable 2 is as follows:

the merchant [Jesus](#)

goodly pearls [Humanity](#)

one pearl of great value [You](#)

all that he had [His coming to earth, dying on the cross, being mocked, suffering for our sins, enduring the pain, descending to Hades to battle sin and death.](#)

18. Conclusion: The above parables tell of the greatest love story of all time. Christ gave everything to purchase our redemption and we, the church, give everything to receive the true treasure - Jesus. He gave it all, we give it all.