

HIDDEN TREASURES, PRICELESS PEARL, BOUNDLESS JOY

Matthew 13:1-3, 24-40

That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³ And He spoke many things to them in parables. Matthew 13:1-3 NASB

- ***Jesus was sitting on the beach, preaching to a large crowd.***
- ***He preached to them in parables and astounded them.***

- ***The Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30 NASB)***

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

- ***The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32 NASB)***

³¹ He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

- ***The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 33:33-35 NASB)***

³³ He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened." ³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

³⁶ Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³⁷ And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons

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of the evil one; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. Matthew 13:36-43 NASB

- ***Jesus and His disciples go back into the house (no crowds any longer). (v36-46)***
 - ***As soon as they are alone with Jesus they ask for an explanation of the wheat and the tares parable.***
 - ***They are seeking an understanding, insight, revelation from Jesus.***
 - ***He explains the parable and answers their questions...***
 - ***He also gives them 'more than they asked for'...He tells them about the 'pearl'.***

• ***The Parable of the Hidden Treasure – and the Parable of the Precious Pearl***
⁴⁴ ***"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46 NASB***

- ***Notice, the hidden treasure is found by a man who wasn't looking for treasure...he was simply 'plowing through life' and discovered the most magnificent thing he had ever seen. He instantly sold all he had because of the joy he had over his 'find.'***
- ***This is how some people come to the Lord...they are going their own way, doing their own thing and the Lord reveals Himself to them and they are joyfully overcome with the Truth of His love.***
- ***The man who found the pearl is much different...he is a seeker, looking for what he knows is out there, but something he has not yet laid hold of. He is looking for something very valuable...something greater than he has known to this point.***
- ***Many people are like this 'merchant,' they have tried many ideologies, faiths, philosophies, and lifestyles but nothing has satisfied or lasted.***

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But when they finally 'see' the kingdom, they give it all up for the treasure of who Jesus is.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. ¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Psalm 25: 10-11 NASB

- ***All of the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth.***
 - ***There are many ways to find the Lord and they all lead to the revelation that He is our Lord and Savior and they result in His saving, redemptive work in our lives.***

The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning. Psalm 25:14 NASB

- ***This is what awaits us when we progressively live in the wonder and preciousness of who Jesus is...***
- ***Nothing compares to the value of the treasure, the pearl in these parables and the same is true about the Lord. Nothing, no one, no place, compares with Him.***
- ***This year marks 30 years of Kathie and I being at Harmony...the 30th anniversary is known as the pearl anniversary...not silver or gold, but the pearl.***
- ***May the 'treasure of the pearl' and the deep inner meanings of His Covenant with us stir us to richer understanding of His love and fullness of joy that will give us great strength.***