

The Second Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 12, 2017
“Stories of the Saviour ~ The Hidden Treasure & the Pearl of Great Price”
Matthew 13:44-46

“With many such parables he spoke the word to them—he did not speak to them except in parables.” (Mark 4:33)

The parables of Jesus are true-to-life stories that teach a deeper _____ truth.

THE REASON FOR SPEAKING IN PARABLES

- To reveal truth to the _____—to those with ears to hear and eyes to see.
 - To conceal the truth from the _____—those who rejected Jesus and His teaching.
 - Jesus’ use of parables also fulfilled _____.
- “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.” (Psalm 78:2)

INTERPRETING PARABLES

- _____. The original _____ in which the parable was told—the known must be understood first in order to make the transference to the unknown.
- _____. The parables were usually designed to address a particular problem or _____.
- _____. Most of the parables focus on one central _____ or idea—even those with multiple points of comparison.

After hearing the Parable of the Sower, the question that would have naturally arisen in the minds of Jesus’ audience would have been:

To answer this question, Jesus tells two _____, _____ parables about a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price that illustrate how the kingdom of heaven is _____.

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

“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.” (Matthew 13:44)

Jesus introduces us to a man, who we can assume is not very _____—maybe a farmer or a labourer—who wasn’t _____ for treasure, but going about his everyday life.

Treasure = *thesauros* =

One ancient rabbinical law said that if a workman came across a treasure, it was the property of his _____ or the _____ of the field.

He went and _____ everything that he owned and bought the field for himself, so the buried treasure could _____ be his.

This parable to illustrate those who enter God’s kingdom _____.

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:7-8)

We can get so _____ in going our own way that God has to take the _____ to show us the kingdom.

“...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

This finding isn’t viewed as the outcome of a particular _____ or _____, but rather as a piece of extraordinary _____ on God’s behalf.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

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

Merchant = *emporos* = emporium =

WHY PEARLS ARE VALUABLE

- It took a _____ time to make one. The longer the pearl remained in the shell, the more nacre formed—and the _____ it was, the more _____ it was.
- They weren’t _____ to find and divers would often _____ searching for them.

Jesus is telling this parable to illustrate those who _____ seek to find and enter God’s kingdom.

Even though we're going our own way, oblivious to the kingdom apart from God's revelation, every human being is on a _____ for _____.

"You have made us to be with you, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." (Augustine)

Once they find it, and the Holy Spirit has convinced them of its _____, they realize that the gospel of Christ is in a _____ all by itself.

5 LESSONS THAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE KINGDOM

Lesson #1: The kingdom is _____.

Of all the things that clamour for our _____, there's nothing more valuable than _____ Christ. In Him there's an _____ of all that's rich and useful for us.

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he has lavished upon us..." (Eph 1:7-8)

The _____ is the field in which this treasure is hid for those who stumble upon it and those who actively seek it.

"...if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:1-5)

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

Are you storing up treasures on earth or in heaven? Is Jesus your treasure?

Lesson #2: The kingdom is _____.

While those who follow Christ know how valuable a relationship with Him is, most of the world has no clue because they're so caught up in other _____, oblivious to the true treasure that could be theirs.

"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 Corinthians 2:14)

This is further complicated by the fact that the enemy loves to cause _____ and spiritual _____.

"In their case 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 Corinthians 4:4)

If we're serious about spiritual matters, we must be willing to _____—to go below the surface—and seek the _____ truths buried in God's Word.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

How diligently are you seeking for God's hidden truths revealed in His Word?

Lesson #3: The kingdom must be _____ appropriated.

In both parables, a _____ was made. The call to conversion is _____.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." (John 5:24)

"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

Have you appropriated the gift of salvation for yourself?

Lesson #4: The kingdom requires _____.

Scripture tells us that we must be willing to _____ everything in order to _____ Jesus. Salvation is free, but it's _____.

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Matt 6:24-26)

What have you sacrificed to follow Jesus?

Lesson #5. The kingdom is _____.

True joy and satisfaction is found only in a _____ with Jesus Christ.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

Where do you find your joy? Do you treasure Jesus more than anything?