

LESSON 18

TREASURE & PEARL

Seek First the Kingdom | [Matthew 13:44-46](#)

OPENING QUESTIONS: OUR TEXT IN CONTEXT

- Matthew 13 features a collection of parables that begin with “The kingdom is like....” Why? What is Jesus doing here?

Hint: Please read Matthew 13:11 and :51-52.

- Consider now the twin Parables of the Buried Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price (:44-46). How are they relevant to the early disciples of Jesus in their specific life-situation?

THINKING QUESTIONS: INTERPRETING THE TEXT

1. Parables compare a known to an unknown, a real-life experience with a truth about the kingdom of heaven.

What is being compared in the twin Parables of the Buried Treasure and the Priceless Pearl? What does it mean?

2. What do these twin parables have in common?
How are they different?

In light of their similarities and differences, what conclusions can you draw about the meanings of each parable? And both together?

3. Please observe and describe the human behaviour in each parable. What stands out to you and what do you make of it?
4. Both parables feature an economic transaction. So, is the kingdom for sale? Can we buy a ticket to heaven? How do you explain this?

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

Prayerfully reflect on the Twin Parables of the Buried Treasure and the Precious Pearl in Matthew 13:44-46. Read them as God’s Word to you personally. What do you think is the main emphasis of each parable and both of them together?

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to this passage’s sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: OBEYING THE WORD

1. The American Missionary John Elliot famously said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

And Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, and philanthropist, said, "If you own anything you cannot give away you don't own it, it owns you."

What do both of the above sayings have in common with our twin Parables of the Treasure and the Pearl. Please share your insights and conclusions.

2. Jesus said, "The sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light." Luke 16:8 ESV

How does this resonate with the Parable of the Buried Treasure? What are some implications for discipleship?

3. The Parables of the Treasure and Pearl remind us that the kingdom of heaven is the highest good, and also that it is hidden.

Therefore, we must seek the kingdom above all else. When we find it, we should let go of everything else and lay hold of it. And then we will find the joy, peace, and security of Eternity.

Sadly, however, many of us live our lives as culture-Christians, out of touch with the adventure of kingdom living.

Spiritual Exercise: Group participants are to consider and respond to the following questions individually and in unhurried silence first. And then share with the group only if they feel comfortable.

How have I personally experienced the adventures of the kingdom of heaven in my life? How am I doing so now?

Have I lost touch with the joy of the kingdom?

Are prayer and Bible reading wearisome chores for me?

Is church attendance more of a duty than a delight?

Has my zeal sharing my faith with pre-believers waned?

If "yes" to any of the above, how and why have these things come about? What can and what will I do to make things better?