

The New Testament Church
Kingdom Rising #5 – Seeking the Treasure
September 3, 2023

I With all that is going on... *we will be examining the kingdom parables of Jesus in Matthew 13*

- A. If politics are the consequences and not causes, *where should be our priorities?*
 - 1. Proverbs 4:18 – **What God has saved us to is greater than what He has saved us from!**
 - 2. Matthew 16:18 – **God is preparing His Ekklesia for victory over the gates of hell!**
 - 3. Hebrews 12:26-29 – **God is shaking and exposing evil as His Kingdom rises!**
- B. Let us remember that the Kingdom rising will mean...
 - 1. Heart attitudes need to be focused toward God and our minds renewed in Biblical principles
 - 2. As we learn to share the gospel using our testimony, we are disciplined in the new and old
- C. Let us also remember several key truths as we approach this parable from Matthew 13:44
 - 1. Jesus spoke in parables to test whether an individual was truly seeking God (Mt. 13:10-17)
 - 2. As the church, so goes the nation (often 1 to 2 generations removed) – Psalm 33:12 (blessed by God's people); 1st Peter 4:17 (judgment on church) and Matthew 5:13 (salt and light)
 - 3. Isaiah 3:10-11 (fruit of your doing) – *God disciplines us by cause and effect*

II Matthew 13:44 – Parable of the Hidden Treasure

- A. Here is a parable related to seeking hidden treasure – only recorded in the book of Matthew
 - 1. *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings to search it out* (Pr. 25:2)
 - 2. It was given “in the house” and away from the multitude – a work of God within
 - 3. This kingdom parable will produce a dichotomy – a contrast – tension held in balance:
 - a. A righteous indignation, even anger (without sin) toward those who are evil (tyrants)
 - b. Yet, a compassion on those caught innocently in the web of deceit – do not understand
- B. What do the symbols mean in this parable?
 - 1. Hidden – *God hides the treasure of Christ from the world; and also hides the Church*
 - a. Though we know Christ is in us, we must seek first His Kingdom to have Him manifest
 - b. God hides the Church from the perception of the world – (our own ineffectiveness helps)
 - c. Like David of old, it is God's way to initially conceal what He is doing – “publish it not”
 - 2. Field – *the world and those not converted is like a field; a wicked culture is an uncultivated field*
 - a. We are redeemed from sin, separated from the world, and then insulated (Jn. 17:11-17)
 - b. We are to seek Kingdom treasure, hungering and thirsting for righteousness – see His work!
 - c. We are revealed in time ready to kill Goliath – *foolish to confound the wise* (1st Cor. 1:27)
 - 3. Treasure – *Christ God's treasure, but we are His workmanship and treasure... in the earth*
 - a. God calls His people (Israel) treasure – Exodus 19:5; Psalm 135:4; Malachi 3:16-17
 - b. God calls believers “his own special people” in 1st Peter 2:9-10
 - c. God uses the same title He has for Israel to the Church as well – Galatians 6:16
 - d. God calls His people (individuals/church) “jewels” in Malachi 3:16-17 and Zechariah 9:16
 - 4. Selling all and buying the field – *God gave Christ (all) to redeem us, we are now to do the same!*
 - a. The *same man* who hid the treasure was willing to buy the field so He can “find it”!
 - b. Christ is hidden in us, He has bought us back from sin by buying the whole field (John 3:16)
 - c. God has hidden kingdom treasure within the field of the world – we must “buy and find it”
 - d. *We must view the “field” – the “world” – as a candidate for reformation... but*
 - e. *It will come about if we see the “treasure” as the souls of those yet to be redeemed...*
 - 5. So what does this parable teach us and what can we glean?
 - a. Jesus loved the “whole world” and redeems His treasure that He has hidden within it!
 - b. We must embrace the same attitude – of buying the whole field (neighborhoods to nations)
 - c. God has hidden us for a reason – when it is time we come forth – persecution / influence
 - d. Though evil and the rule of law seems gone, *we must see His kingdom treasure as hope!*