

**The New Testament Church**  
**Kingdom Rising #7 – The Treasure is Christ**  
**October 1, 2020**

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. Re-claim the vital importance of the heart, mind and simple truths of the Gospel
  - 1. We must dethrone a love of wealth, pleasure, power and evil in our hearts!
  - 2. We need to rehearse key Biblical thought patterns that can direct our minds...
  - 3. Learn to share the gospel through your own parable – your story – testimony (Mt. 13:10-17)
  - 4. We will discern the Kingdom by its balance of the new and old – extremes are of the flesh...
  - 5. In the midst of darkness, seek the light, the hidden treasure of God's Kingdom rising...
  - 6. The Kingdom spreads like leaven – internally – spirit, soul and through relationships

II Matthew 13:45-46 – Parable of the pearl of great Price

- A. This is a parable spoken “in the house” – to the Church to understand how the Kingdom rises...
  - 1. It is a fishing analogy but in this case for oysters (salt water) and mussels (fresh water)
    - a. The pearl is formed when a parasite or irritant enters its fragile body
    - b. In defense of this intrusion, it secretes layers of material similar to its shell
    - c. The result is nacre, also known as mother-of-pearl, incasing the irritant (very valuable)
  - 2. Believers who are kingdom-conscious are seeking to buy “pearls of great price” (Christ)
    - a. Palestine was a merchant location since it was at a crossroads – both sea and land
    - b. A merchant seeking only pearls would be quite unusual – seeking wealth instead of riches
    - c. No one but a wealthy agent of Rome could afford to buy a pearl in Jesus' day
    - d. Pearls were worn by royalty in crowns or shown on clothing
  - 4. The market place is where people voluntarily buy and sell – a picture of the Kingdom
  - 5. The idea of value is introduced here – the merchant imputes great value of great price
- B. The Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls...
  - 1. “A true Christian is a spiritual merchant, that seeks and finds this pearl of price” (M Henry)
  - 2. In Jesus' day the pearl was one of the most expensive pieces of jewelry (or commodity)
    - a. One had to dive (by use of weights and rope) almost 45 yards to an oyster bed
    - b. It was mysterious how they were formed – but it was called “pearling”
  - 3. In our day (the past 100 years), pearls have lost their value (synthetic, and easier to harvest)
- C. We find one pearl of great price – consider our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ
  - 1. “*Seek ye first the Kingdom*” implies however seeking first the King – Jesus Christ
  - 2. The priority of Christ in our lives helps form the pearl from within
  - 3. Instead of complaining about the irritant, we learn to bring something more valuable out of it
  - 4. Let's compare the most common irritants in lives today, and the attributes of Christ (the pearl)
  - 5. Is it worth “selling” your irritant for the value of becoming more like Christ?
- D. We are to “sell all that we have” – give our weakness to Him, that we might gain **Everything**
  - 1. We have lost our identity, who we are and where we fit in – Christ is **Alpha and Omega!**
  - 2. We are desperate for a sovereign intervention of God – He is **Jehovah** – 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity
  - 3. We are lost, without hope, separate from God – He is **Messiah!** – Savior, anointed one
  - 4. We are in need of a deliverer that knows our weakness – He is the **Son of Man!**
  - 5. Due to sin, and our inability to reach God, we need a someone perfect – He is the **Son of God!**
  - 6. Who will bridge the gap? He is the **Prince of Peace!** – **He is the God-Man**
  - 7. The nations are in turmoil, yet He is **King of Kings** – for **Christ inherits the nations!**