

The Pearl of Great Price; Matthew 13:44-46

I. Value

- A. We place value on everything
- B. It is how we prioritize our lives
- C. If we think it is worth the juice is worth the squeeze, then we squeeze
- D. It is how we get in trouble with sin
 - 1. We tend to think that the pleasure is worth the sinful behavior
 - 2. There is nothing in this world that can compare with the pleasures of heaven
 - 3. Philippians 3:7–8; 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 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

II. Treasure

- A. Matthew 13:44; “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.
- B. Do you remember finding something really valuable?
- C. My brother-in-law works at a tourist attraction in Colorado where you pan for gold and you get to keep what you find
- D. There is a place in Tennessee where you can pay a nominal fee and search for diamonds (large diamonds have been found there)
- E. The lure of treasure brings people to these places (I think that the low entrance fee with the possibility of a large find is what does it)
- F. But that is where this parable really takes a different turn
- G. How many of us would pay all we have for a treasure worth much much more?
 - 1. The thought of parting with everything we own, emptying our bank account(s), selling our home is very difficult for us
 - 2. Even if there is a guarantee of a bigger and better treasure
 - 3. It really becomes a question of where our values lie (priorities)
 - 4. Do we count our physical lives much more than our spiritual ones?

III. Trust

- A. If I said, “Next week I’m going to give \$1000.00 to everyone who shows up for worship,” how many would be here?
- B. How about, “I have a treasure worth more than anything you have. If you give me everything you have (and are) I’ll give it to you.”
 - 1. You would think I was one of those televangelist’s trying to take your money (because you don’t trust me)
 - 2. You would have to know that I was good for it (trust me)
 - 3. You would have to know that I would follow through with my end of the deal
- C. So the question then becomes, “Do we trust God to keep His promises”
- D. If we answer with a resounding “YES!” then we should have no problem giving up everything for Him
- E. Promises
 - 1. The curse for sin was a promise
 - 2. Genesis 3:14–19
 - 3. The promise of the Christ
 - 4. Genesis 12:1-3
 - 5. Paul separates the Law of Moses from the Promise of God

6. Galatians 3:16-22
7. And here is where we become recipients of that promise
8. Galatians 3:26-29
9. Romans 4:13-25

F. Do we believe these Scriptures?!

IV. Give It Up

- A. Matthew 13:45–46; 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- B. Then sell all you have and buy the pearl!
 1. God completed His part of the bargain
 2. He sacrificed His one and only Son, once for all, so that we might become partakers of His great and precious promises
 3. 2 Peter 1:3–4; 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
 4. Hebrews 9:27–28; 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
- C. The chicken says to the pig, “We should have breakfast, I’ll bring the eggs, you bring the bacon”
 1. The chicken is only participating in the breakfast
 2. The pig is fully committed
- D. Luke 14:33; So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

V. The Pearl of Great Price

- A. We must view the Kingdom of God (the age of the Church) as the most valuable thing there is
- B. We must give it all up for Him and His Kingdom
- C. We must trust that God is willing and able to do what He said He would do; give us salvation