

At All Cost; Matthew 13:44-52

I. At All Cost

- A. Something so important as to make everything unimportant
- B. Nothing matters but this one thing
- C. A lot of movies are based on this principle and often give the characters very hard choices to illustrate it
 - 1. Tangled - the young girl just had to see the light festival, even if it meant leaving everything she ever knew
 - 2. Dr. Who - values life so highly that everything else can be sacrificed for it
- D. This is how God desires we value Him and His Kingdom

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. Found and protected
 - 1. Stumbled across, came upon by accident
 - 2. Yet he still recognized the surpassing worth of it
- C. Paul was not searching for God, He thought that he already knew Him
- D. Yet, on the road to Damascus, he "stumbled" upon Him
- E. Paul was not any "half-hearted" christian
 - 1. Many imprisonments, countless beatings, often near death
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 11:24–28; 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.
 - 3. Paul suffered much for his Christianity, and it was all part of God's plan for him
 - 4. Acts 9:15–16; 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."
 - 5. But that did not deter him from (in a football phrase) leaving it all out on the field!
- F. Sold everything and purchased the field
 - 1. Some scholars think that Paul was married and had children and gave them up for Christ
 - a) The Pharisees took God's command to "be fruitful and multiply" very seriously
 - b) These scholars say that to become a Pharisee you had to be married and have children
 - 2. Really, the only glimpse we get of Paul's family in Scripture is his sister's son stopping a plot to kill Paul in Acts 23:16
 - 3. But listen to Paul and see if you can't see him giving up everything for God
 - 4. Philippians 3:5–11; 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 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 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

G. It is very clear that Paul sold all that he had (and was) and bought the field with the treasure in it

H. Have you stumbled across Christ this morning?

III. Pearl

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. “In search of”

1. A long, diligent, meticulous search
2. He knew what he is looking for

C. The Ethiopian Eunuch is such an important person, and sometimes we just roll right over this story

D. A Eunuch was often a very significant person in the royal courts, in charge of the treasury or other equally important offices

1. Acts 8:26–28; 26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

E. Here is a man from another country (not an Israelite), a proselyte to Judaism, making the trek to Jerusalem to worship God according to Old Testament Scriptures

F. God was so important to this man, that after spending the days worshiping God in Jerusalem, he was reading the Scriptures on the way home

1. Acts 8:29–35; 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” 34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

G. Philip taught him Jesus, this is the key to the whole passage

1. The Eunuch was searching, Philip showed him where to find it; in Jesus
2. The Eunuch’s reaction is the stuff of dreams

H. Sold everything and purchased the pearl

1. Acts 8:36–39; 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

- I. I have to pause here because there is so much “to-do” over baptism.
 1. As you know, most denominations don’t agree with the idea that baptism is where our sins are washed away
 2. But, baptism was very much a part of Philip’s teaching him “Jesus”
 3. If you noticed, the verse numbers skipped 37
 4. Some manuscripts add all or most of verse 37: And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
 5. My point is that baptism was a big part of Philip’s teaching Jesus, and so important to the Eunuch that he commanded the chariot to stop when he saw “much water”
 - J. It is very clear that the Eunuch sold everything he had and purchased that pearl
- IV. Net
- A. Matthew 13:47–50; 47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - B. To truly understand this parable and its relationship to the others, we have to notice how they all begin, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...”
 - C. Just what is “The Kingdom of Heaven?” The final coming of Jesus? Heaven? The church?
 1. Matthew 3:1–2; 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 2. Matthew 4:17; From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 3. Matthew 7:21; “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
 - a) Jesus is talking about good fruit and bad fruit being the key to recognizing false prophets
 - b) He also mentioned the narrow gate, and finishes with building a house on the rock verses the sand
 4. It is clear to me that the “Kingdom of Heaven” is the age of the Church
 5. Colossians 1:13–14; 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - D. With that understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven, we can get an accurate meaning of this parable
 - E. Gathered fish of every kind (not all fish)
 1. All families will be blessed
 2. salvation is not just for the Jews, but for all
 - F. Sorted, good and bad
 1. Most commentators see this as the end of time judgment of all people
 2. But not all people were gathered into the net, only “of every kind”
 3. Coffman thinks this is the separation of those in the church, meaning not everyone in the church (gathered in the net) is going to heaven; only those who have “sold everything” and “purchased” (or been purchased by Jesus’ blood) the treasure

4. Verse 49 seemingly puts us at the judgment where angels separate the evil from the righteous

G. However we see it, the reason for these parables comes down to verse 52

V. Scribe

A. Matthew 13:51–52; 51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”
52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

1. “therefore” - because of what I just said

2. Scribe - one instructed in the observances of the Mosaic Law

3. The Kingdom of Heaven required a new scribe trained for the Kingdom

4. The disciple who has, either by stumbling across it, or searching diligently for it, sold everything for the kingdom will exhibit the true teaching of the old law and the lessons of the new covenant

B. We are the scribes, the disciples, who have been trained

C. We are the ones who have supposedly given everything for the precious Kingdom of God

D. We are the ones who are supposed to bring out of our treasure (the Kingdom of Heaven)
The truth of God’s word in both the old and new covenants

VI. At All Costs

A. Do you view the Kingdom as something so precious it is worth everything you have?

B. Have you given your all for the Kingdom?