

THE PARABLES—Section 2, Part 5

Matthew 13:44-45

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1. 13:44 Because there were no banks, many protected their valuables in secret spots, often in the ground.
2. 13:44 The point of the parable is not about ethics; it is about a willingness to sacrifice to possess a treasure.
3. 13:44 By considering the context of this verse, we understand the following:
 - It is obvious that the treasure was not hidden by the present owner of the field since the treasure was unknown to him (it was likely owned by a broker).
 - According to Rabbinic law, if a person came across lost valuables and the owner was unknown or deceased, the finder had the right to keep what was found.
 - If he had been operating dishonestly, he would simply have come back at night and taken the treasure. There would be no thought of buying the field.
4. 13:45 In the ancient world, pearls were the highest valued gems and were bought as investments.
5. 13:45 This parable gives a new perspective on Jesus' admonition not to "cast pearls before swine" (Matthew 7:6), emphasizing the priceless value of the gospel, though there will be those who disdain it.
6. Four specifics about the Kingdom, especially as it relates to salvation:
 - The Kingdom is personally apprehended—Both parables focus on a single individual sacrificing everything to personally obtain that which is immeasurably valuable. It is not obtained by genealogy, or by being a citizen of particular country (Romans 9:6-7).
 - The Kingdom is priceless—Both parables express that the value of salvation is worth the surrender of all that is possessed to receive it (Mark 8:36-37).
 - The Kingdom has varied entry points in life—There is not just one precondition for coming to Christ. You can come from wherever you are. The two parables are similar in outcome, but where they differ is how the treasure was found...one came by chance, the other was diligently looking.
 - Obtaining the Kingdom is a personal transaction—In both parables the priceless object was acquired at the expense of every possession the finder owned.

SONG TITLES

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