

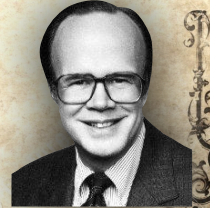
THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Matthew 13:44-46
Lesson #6
Treasure and Sacrifice
11/03/2019

“Religion is your seeking after a god in your own image. Christianity is God’s seeking you and moving to redeem you by the death of His Son.”

James Montgomery Boice



Longings shape our Living

They remind us that there is something missing in our world.

They shape our fears, hopes, joys, and peace.

They are at the heart of the Biblical narrative and all religion.

They ultimately lead us to eternal life or death.

2



Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

John 6:35

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.””

John 7:37

“If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”

3



Matthew 13

“44 The kingdom of heaven is like a **treasure** hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from **joy** over it he goes and **sells all that he has**, and buys that field.”

“45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of **great value**, he went and **sold all that he had**, and bought it.”

4

Observations

• These parables share **common themes**.

1. A **treasure** of great value

2. A **discovery** of great joy

3. A **purchase** of great sacrifice

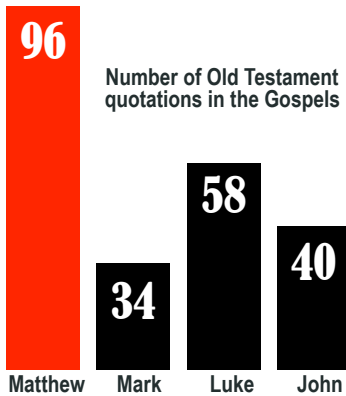
• There is no interpretation offered.

• These parables appear **only in Matthew**.

5

Observations on Matt.13:44-46

- These parables appear **only in Matthew**.



- This is consistent with the tradition that Matthew was writing largely to the Jewish people.
- The Jewish religion was shaped by the hope of a coming King and kingdom.

6

Some clues to the meaning

- Matthew **introduces** the parables in ch.13 as addressing **“mysteries of the kingdom”**.

Matthew 13:11

“To you it has been granted to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.”

- Matthew **concludes** the parables in ch.13 as addressing **“things new and old”**.

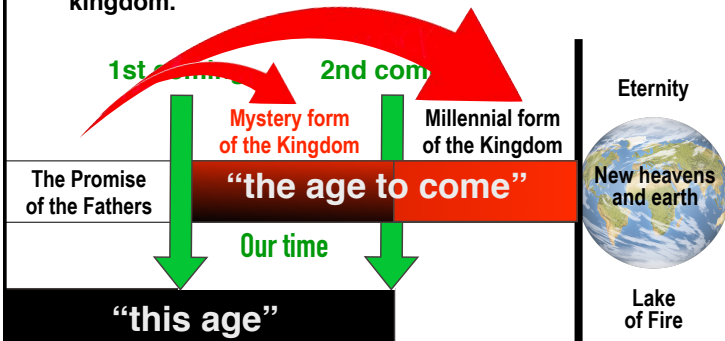
Matthew 13:52

“And He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure **things new and old**.”

7

The Kingdom of God takes two forms.

1. The “old thing” is the promise of a coming kingdom.
2. The “new thing” is that it will include a “mystery” form including Gentiles by faith.



8

Paul preached a gospel message that would be controversial to Jewish disciples.

Matthew 13:11

“To you it has been granted to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.”

Colossians 1:26

“the **mystery** which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,”

Paul’s Gospel

Jesus’ Parables

“something new”

“something old”

Acts - Epistles

1 Corinthians 1:23

Old Testament - Gospels

“we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a **stumbling block**.”⁹



Three reasons I found Christianity disengaging when I was younger.



- “A boring church culture”
- “An impossible standard”
- “A painful sacrifice”

As fallen people in a fallen world - our Longings shape our Living.



1. Ask the right questions.
Purpose, Peace, & Freedom
2. Look in the right places.
Heart & Biblical Narrative

10

Who is the “man” in these parables?

Humanity

The parables speak of our posture toward God.

- We see the value of the Kingdom and the King.
- We sacrifice our lives to participate in the Gospel.

God

The parables speak of God’s posture toward us.

- God sees us as the treasure, and pearl.
- God makes a great sacrifice to purchase us.



11

Parallel Truths

Romans 12:1

"I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

1 John 4:19

"**We love because he first loved us.**"

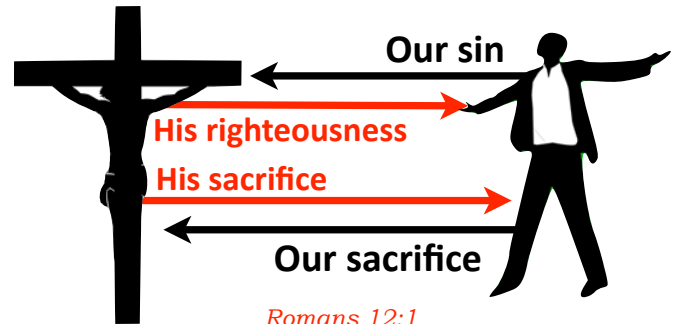
1 Peter 2:21

"For you have been called for this purpose, since **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example for you to **follow in his steps.**"

12

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."



Romans 12:1

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

13

These parables invite a self audit.

- ✓ **How do you view God?** Can you picture God suffering loss, making sacrifices, feeling joy, seeking those He loves?

The Impassibility of God?

- The meaning of a **personal relationship** between God and man without "feelings".
- The **many texts** that ascribe emotions to God.
- The **example of Jesus** who is the visible form of the invisible God. *Col. 1:15, Jn. 1:18*



14

These parables invite a self audit.

- ✓ **How do you view God?** Can you picture God suffering loss, making sacrifices, feeling joy, seeking those He loves?

- ✓ **What has your faith cost you in following Christ?**

- ✓ **How much have you sacrificed this year to help others?**

- ✓ **Do you ever go out of your way to help those who are not your friends?**



15

Know yourself

- The greatest lies we tell are the ones we tell **TO OURSELVES ABOUT OURSELVES.**
- Stop trying to be someone else.

Accept yourself

- Change what you can & **MANAGE** what you can't.
- **AFFIRM** God's grace & Christ's power in your life.

Get over yourself

- Give **YOUR** "bucket list" to Jesus, not to fulfill but to replace with his.
- Don't baby sit "unfinished business" in your soul.

Give yourself

- **TAKE YOUR BAPTISM SERIOUSLY.** Show up every day spiritually dressed for work, in shape, and with your "game face" on.

16



With the
Bread & Cup
we celebrate -

both treasure and sacrifice
of both God and His people.

17